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CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH
PARK CRESCENT

TOWN'S ANNUAL CHARITY EVENT IS OUT TO BREAK THE RECORD 'All Things Christmas' is the 52nd festive Morning Swim theme

THIS year marks the 52nd Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim and organisers are hoping a record number of swimmers will take part to support LATCH (the Welsh children's cancer charity) and other local charities.

Following last year's successful record charity event, when 900-plus registered swimmers took a dip at Porthcawl's Sandy Bay, organisers have decided this year's theme for those who swim in fancy dress will be 'All Things Christmas', adding to another great family Christmas atmosphere and another very successful swim.

Spokesperson Marilyn Smith said: 'Some friends of the Swim travel home for Christmas, so we get swimmers and spectators from all over the UK and abroad. Last year, we had visitors from New Zealand, Canada and Germany, besides those who come from south Wales - all to enjoy a festive morning at Sandy Bay, Porthcawl.'

"The arrangements on the morning will follow last year's changes, in that as swimmers register, they will receive their commemorative mug before the Swim; whether they have registered online or on the morning, they must come to the registration desk from 10:30am onwards.

"Swimmers will leave the Hi Tide Inn, Mackworth Road and gather at the top of the beach for the start at 11:45am. We are planning to have the 'start arch' (weather permitting) erected on the beach so that every swimmer will file through in a similar way to last year and at other large events.

"Porthcawl Coastguard will signal the start and veteran swimmers Vic Davies and Chris Hughes both from Porthcawl and the only two swimmers that have taken part in all of the previous swims,

will lead the swimmers down the beach through the spectators. Running up to Christmas, our small committee have to work tirelessly to raise enough money to fund the cost of the Swim, the souvenir programmes and the much sought-after Swim mugs. The main aim is to raise as much money as possible for our chosen charities.

"Therefore we are relying on 'you' to help, either by swimming and getting sponsorship to support us, or if you are a spectator, by giving generously to our bucket collection.

"The more money we collect, the more we can give away. We are also appealing for the volunteers to support us as collectors and marshals: details of how to register an interest can be found on our website."

Chairman Dave King, said: 'This year the 'Swim' committee have chosen to donate money collected at the swim and via swimmers' sponsorship to LATCH, who work with so much love and devotion for children with cancer. As in previous years, we will also support other local organisations.

"A total of £8,400 was donated after the 51st swim last year, so with your help, maybe we can exceed this amount. Our promise is to give every penny that is collected on Christmas morning via the bucket collection and through swimmers' sponsorship to our chosen beneficiaries.

"Our sponsorship forms are available from our website - www.christmasswim.org - or at the Town Council Offices, Jane's Cards, John Street, and Porthcawl Library.

"We thank all the individuals and businesses who help us in so many ways to be able to put the 'Swim' on. We invite you to join in the fun, either

IT'S CHRISTMAS IN MAESTEG



Photograph by
Scenic Gallery

It was a big day in Maesteg when the Christmas festivities were launched. (See page 25 for a report and more photos).

as a swimmer or spectator: come and soak up the festive family atmosphere. We are overwhelmed in the way the event has been so well supported in previous years. We continue to have record swimmers, spectators and collections. Help us to make the 52nd event equally successful."

On an official note we need to point out that the Christmas Morning Swim committee hold the licence to collect money on Christmas Day; therefore, any collecting of money at the event, other than by our official collectors, is prohibited.

DK

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Cancer group says 'thank you'

THE Cowbridge committee for Cancer Research UK would like to thank our supporters who raised £1,227 at the coffee morning recently held at Penny Farthing Cafe.

Thanks also to the staff and volunteers who helped make this such a successful event.

The committee is grateful for the continued support of the people and businesses of Cowbridge and wishes everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Lastly, we would like to thank The GEM, who continue to publicise our activities.

Fran Davies, (on behalf of Cowbridge committee of Cancer Research UK).

STUDIOS SITE

READER Mark Steer has pointed out that in The GEM's December 1 edition, Dragon Studios was said to be in Pencoed, but is located in Llanharan Community Council Llanilid ward, part of Rhondda Cynon Taf county borough.

Baggy you win... Big households get an extra bin liner

L A R G E R households in Bridgend County Borough will be given extra allowance when new rule on the amount of non-recyclable waste that residents can throw out are introduced next year.

From April 1, 2017, most homes in Bridgend County Borough will be restricted to putting out two landfill bags per fortnight but, following public consultation, cabinet members from the local authority have agreed that extra allowances will need to be given to households with more than six occupants

so that the new collection service can help to increase recycling rates while also being as fair as possible.

Properties with six or seven residents will be able to apply for one additional bin bag each fortnight, while homes containing eight or more people will be able to apply for two additional bags per fortnight.

All applicants will need to demonstrate that they are recycling as much as possible, and checks will be carried out to ensure that they are only using the extra bags for non-recyclable waste. Those homes that are given the extra allowances will need to re-apply every 12 months.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: **The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk**

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Question: Why don't we celebrate 'The 12 days of Christmas'?

THE 12 days begin on Christmas Day itself and end on January 5 – the even of Twelfth Night.

In other countries in Europe and Latin America, after Christmas Day itself there is always the excitement leading up to the New Year displays and this is followed by the excitement on January 6 – the 12th Night of parades and fireworks, and even bonfires in country places, with the wise

kings on horses – even sometimes camels – throwing goodies to the crowds lining the routes; and then the children have the joy of opening their presents on the morning of 12th Night itself.

In Spanish-speaking countries this is all known as 'Reyes' – kings. The shops' pre-sales begin even before Christmas.

The GEM, reported a number of years back, that a small boy said to his mother: "Mummy, there is nothing between New Year and going back to school."

I can also recall that we took our two eldest small boys up to London in the '50s on Boxing Day the 26th to see all the splendid festive

windows down Regent Street, only to find them blocked by blinds down, and doors closed – even Hamleys, the world-renowned toyshop, was closed, all because 'sales' were about to begin – ample evidence of being a 'nation of shopkeepers' as Napoleon called us. But it need not be so.

Perhaps we can re-look at the 12 days of Christmas. In Cowbridge, the Cricket Club has wonderful bonfires and fireworks displays on November 5, Guy Fawkes Night.

There is a reindeer parade down the High Street in early December; and the Churches Together In Cowbridge have a fundraising Nativity parade through

the Old Hall Gardens, but before Christmas Day.

All these could be brought together; and no doubt the Amelia Trust Farm could provide us with donkeys, and local riding schools can provide horses for any parade contemplated for us to celebrate the end of the 12 days of Christmas.

'Father Christmas time' is that leading up to Christmas Day, also known as Advent, and is only a few centuries old.

The 12 Days of Christmas go back some 2,000 years.

One could get the children also involved in looking up the histories of these days, which would add to their excitement.

E Cavan

The real TV remote control?

EVERY adult in Britain knows that the billion pound advertising industry sets out to affect the mind of every child in the nation, from their earliest years.

Some TV adverts can implant negative values into a child's mind, creating self-centred adults who are

slaves of consumerism, today's religion. Any parents and grandparents who were trapped by the same damaging culture, may accept it because they know no better.

What a strange form of unnatural society, where the parents who love their children are accomplices in the planned distortion of their children's values, all to suit a tiny number of dishonest plutocrats who control it.

Neville Westerman, Brynna.

'Strong progress' made at Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd

CABINET members from Bridgend County Borough Council have been informed that strong progress has been made at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd to address four recommendations suggested by Estyn inspectors when they visited the school last year.

The county borough's first Welsh-medium comprehensive school passed its maiden inspection with flying colours in May 2015, with inspectors judging the school to be performing well, and having good prospects for improvement.

While the school was rated 'good' in

13 areas, and 'adequate' in two, the Estyn team made four recommendations.

The first one was to improve standards in English and Welsh at key stage four, while the second one was to improve provision for pupils who have additional learning needs.

It was also recommended that the school should strengthen quality and ensure consistency in teachers' feedback to pupils on how to improve their work, and Estyn's final recommendation centred on strengthening management systems in order to ensure full accountability in all areas.

NHS EMPLOYEE JAILED FOR DEFRAUDING A PATIENT

A BRIDGEND hospital worker has been jailed for 21 months, after pleading guilty to forging the signatures of her colleagues and a vulnerable patient – in a scam that saw her net thousands of pounds over several years.

Kay Morgan, a former ward clerk at Caswell Clinic in Bridgend, pleaded guilty to nine charges of fraud, false accounting and theft when she appeared at Cardiff Crown Court on Monday, October 25 and was sentenced last week.

Morgan, 59, from Tydraw Villas, Abergarw, faced a total of 15 charges, the remainder of which will lie on file with the Crown Prosecution Service.

Detective Sergeant Scott Howe said: "This has been a lengthy and complex investigation, which has seen South Wales Police work very

closely and determinedly with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg. Kay Morgan's fraudulent behaviour is believed to have begun in 2005 and continued until she left the facility in 2013.

"She repeatedly breached her position of trust by callously targeting not only her employer and colleagues but also a vulnerable patient. We are pleased she has finally admitted to her guilt to some of the charges, sparing her victims and their families the further distress of a trial.

"We hope this case serves as a deterrent to anyone who thinks it is acceptable to take advantage of vulnerable people in this way.

"Kay Morgan probably believed she had got away with her offending, but the safeguarding of vulnerable people is a primary objective of South Wales Police and we, along with our partners at AMBU health

board, were determined to do all it took to get justice for her victims."

A spokeswoman for ABM University Health Board said: "We were shocked to discover the truly shameful actions of this individual. It was a dreadful breach of trust against the health board, but much worse, against vulnerable patients."

"Her callous dishonesty was an affront to all caring, hard-working and trustworthy staff. We worked closely with police to ensure Ms Morgan was brought to justice, and hope that her conviction and this sentence will be a deterrent to others."

"While Ms Morgan was solely responsible for the thefts, arrangements are in place to formally approve reimbursements for the patients involved; for the criminal proceedings have concluded. In addition, we have tightened internal procedures to minimise future risks."

'HEALTH HEROES' RECEIVE AWARDS

TWO healthcare support workers were among the first ever regional winners of the 'Our Health Heroes' Awards, which honour the thousands of healthcare support workers who keep the NHS running behind the scenes.

Jamie Alsop, a support time and recovery worker at Whitchurch Hospital in Cardiff and Helen Rees, a catering supervisor at Princess of Wales Hospital in

29 in London.

"Jamie was put forward for his dedication to one patient in particular and going above and beyond with their care. Jamie supported them until the end of their life and did everything he could to make sure the patient was as comfortable as possible."

"Helen was nominated for her passion and commitment to improve the hospital's catering services. She is a fantastic role model to the rest of her team," a spokesperson said.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL DECEMBER 15)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
08 Thur			12.34	8.2
09 Fri	01.13	8.3	13.47	8.4
10 Sat	02.24	8.6	14.55	8.9
11 Sun	03.29	9.0	15.57	9.4
12 Mon	04.27	9.7	16.53	9.8
13 Tues	05.21	10.0	17.48	10.2
14 Wed	06.12	10.3	18.38	10.4
15 Thur	06.59	10.5	19.28	10.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO, Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London EC4M 7LG Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

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No bare tree, thanks to the Brownies!

BROWN OWL
Helen Murdoch from Newton Brownies built a cuddly tree from more than 100 teddy bears for the Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl.

Helen who is also the Leader at Newton Guides said: "All the teddies have been donated by Newton Rainbows, Brownies and Guides (and their friends and family). We're then giving all the teddies to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice."

"They are packed full of love ready to help make another child's Christmas a little better. Happy Christmas!"

She added: "No matter how much time you have to give, there's an opportunity for you to join our team of leaders, provide occasional support, or simply share a skill or passion with girls in a local unit."

"When you volunteer for us, you become an inspiring role model for our young members."

"When you donate to us, you make an investment in the future of all girls."

"When you fundraise for us, you



Teddy Bear Tree for Ty Hafan.

make what we do possible. Or you can get involved by adding your voice to our campaigns. Find out more at www.girlguidingcymru.org.uk and www.girlguiding.org.uk."

Delyth's 'magical' festive flower show



Delyth Price, left, with some of her arrangements.

'A MAGICAL Christmas' was the title of Porthcawl Flower Arrangement Society's open evening on November 16 at The Hi Tide Inn.

Delyth Price, a talented, well-known demonstrator, delighted her audience with beautiful flower arrangements, demonstrating her skill and expertise.

The event was well-attended and a

warm welcome was extended to Porthcawl's Lord Mayor and Mayoress, Coun Robert Lee and Mrs Ann Lee.

The photograph shows them with Delyth and one of her flower designs.

The night was deemed to be very successful and a great start to the festive season.

MS

Community scheme impresses Ogmores AM

LABOUR AM for Ogmores, Huw Irranca-Davies, has said he was impressed at the way a 'community pharmacy' is embracing new opportunities being offered by the Welsh Government.

He praised the Welsh Government after a visit to Sheppards Pharmacy in Llanharry, Ogmores.

The AM said that while the UK Government had announced proposals to cut funding to community pharmacies in England, the Welsh Government has re-stated its commitment to the community pharmacy sector, with £20 million

investment to support and enhance services in Wales.

"I've long been a supporter of making better use of our community pharmacists. They are the experts in medicines management. We need pharmacists to be able to see a patient's medical records so they can make sure the medicine they have been prescribed is the correct dose."

"They can also do so much more to offer treatments to take pressure off GPs and I'm delighted the Labour-run Welsh Government sees this potential and will be investing heavily in protecting and enhancing our community pharmacy service in Wales," he added.

'Tighten Porthcawl transport links' – urges a Conservative AM

SUZIE Davies, Welsh Conservative AM for South Wales West, has challenged the First Minister to ensure that there are stronger transport links for Porthcawl and further west than those currently proposed in the draft South Wales Metro plan.

Mrs Davies told Carwyn Jones AM that places such as Maesteg and Porthcawl, which are at the western edge of the

new metro system, need to have better connections to the east as well as between their own communities.

Speaking afterwards, she said: "Maesteg has a passenger rail service but at the moment the trains are hourly, which is not frequent enough."

"There has been talk for some years of bringing in a half-hourly service but this requires capital investment from Welsh Government to install a passing loop because the line from Bridgend to Maesteg, which also serves Sam and Tondur, is

single track.

"I urge Welsh Government to give this scheme a higher priority than it has had to date."

"I am also concerned about Porthcawl which is in need of a much faster bus service. The reply I had from Carwyn Jones referred to the Beeching cuts of the early 1960's – before he was even born!"

"It's time that we moved on from that and looked at how Porthcawl could be better connected to the Cardiff region and points in between via this metro system. There are

options for a tramway or light railway which must be considered as well as buses."

"Porthcawl has an important tourism market which needs to be catered for. Crying over rail closures half a century ago is futile. Let's see what we can do now. Welsh Government has just been given a £400m boost for its capital programme by Chancellor Philip Hammond."

"I want that money spent on urgent infrastructure projects which will be the driver for economic development and job creation."

Music therapist hits the right note

MUSIC could be just what the doctor ordered for patients set to benefit from the health board's new partnership with a leading UK charity.

Jo Humphreys, a music therapist from Nordoff Robbins, is now based within ABMU and has already set up a series of pilot projects, a spokesperson reports.

Nordoff Robbins is the largest independent music therapy charity in the UK, dedicated to changing the lives of vulnerable and isolated people.

Jo said: "I am delighted to be joining ABMU to introduce music therapy to people who can really benefit from it."

"The reaction of patients, families and staff has already been so positive and I'm looking forward to reaching more people as the service develops further."

"In my work I am committed to focusing on potential, individuality and working flexibly through music to achieve

the best possible outcomes.

"I am hugely encouraged to know that these are aims shared by ABMU."

When delivered by a trained practitioner, music therapy can be used to support people living with a wide range of needs.

It can help a child with autism to communicate, help people with neurological difficulties maximise their potential and adjust to their condition, and provide comfort to and celebrate the life of someone facing terminal illness.

The first music therapy pilot projects in ABMU are now under way in the Traumatic Brain Injury Service and Ty Olwen hospice at Morriston Hospital, the Neuro-Rehabilitation Unit at Neath Port Talbot Hospital and Hafan Y Môr children's centre in Singleton Hospital.

ABMU arts in health coordinator Prue



Thimbleby said: "We are so delighted to be able to offer this service to patients."

"There has been lots of great feedback already in the first few weeks. We are working closely with Nordoff Robbins on the further development of this work in the ABMU area."

Go to **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...

There's lots more online....



www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

'OlympAge Games' coming to Cefn Cribwr this month

BCBC is hosting an innovative 'OlympAge Games' event, which will see over 100 older people and people with disabilities, competing in Rio-inspired activities at Bethlehem Life Centre, Cefn Cribwr on December 8 from 10am-1pm.

The OlympAge Games form part of a wellbeing initiative which has been rolled out in local care settings to improve physical and mental wellbeing.

With support from Sport Wales' medal ceremony and closing speech.

Calls for Action programme and Welsh Government's Intermediate Care Fund, activity leaders have been coaching participants on the importance of keeping mobile with games such as bocce, new-age curling and basketball in the lead-up to the event.

Over 50 Bridgend College health and social care students will be on hand to support older people taking part on the day, giving an intergenerational message and encouraging age-friendly communities.

The event will culminate with a medal ceremony and closing speech.

PACT meetings

PORTHCAWL WEST CENTRAL PACT at Trinity Church on January 3 at 7pm.

FELINDRE, HENDRE, PENPRYS (PENCOED) and COYCHURCH PACT, Pencoed Library at 2pm on January 16.

MORFA TOWN PACT, Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street on January 16 at 6.30pm.

LITCHARD, PENDRE and COITY PACT at Litchard Mission on January 19 at 7pm.

SARN/BRYNCOCH PACT on December 5 at Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.

BETTWS PACT on December 8 at Bettws Life Centre at 2pm.

PYLE/CORNELLY PACT on December 8 at Kenfig Hill Fire Station at 6.30pm.

MP praises school staff

SCHOOL support staff across were recently recognised for the contribution they make to education.

Chris Elmore, Ogmores MP, joined the teaching assistants and support

staff at St Mary and St Patrick's Catholic School in Maesteg to celebrate the 'Stars in our School' campaign.

The MP said: "These often overlooked members of staff work tirelessly to support children and young people in our schools."



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Becoming more like Alfie at a boot camp!

WELSH rugby legend Gareth 'Alfie' Thomas has again teamed up with the George Thomas Hospice Care and Forces Fitness, to organise a fun fitness boot camp – to raise money for the charity and its role as a major provider of hospice care.

Alfie, famed for his fitness, will push participants to their limits as they do military circuits, boxing, hill treks, log exercises and lots more throughout the Saturday and Sunday camp.

The event will be run by Forces Fitness and the instructors will be former soldiers.

The boot camp will be held at the Bryn Bettws Lodge in the Afan Valley next May 13 and 14. Accommodation and all food will be included.

Alfie said: "These camps are great fun and I always enjoy them. I'll be shouting lots of advice and encouraging those taking part to get to the



'Alfie' at a boot camp.

finishing line. I'm delighted that it is raising money for George Thomas Hospice Care, they do such a wonderful job caring for patients with life-threatening illnesses."

To take part, participants have to pay a £40 registration fee and then raise a minimum of £250 in sponsorship.

Alternatively, they can pay a registration fee of £250.

To register or for more information, see www.gthc.org.uk or call GTHC on 029 2052 4150.

Can you sponsor a talking book?

WALES' largest sight loss charity RNIB Cymru is encouraging local groups and businesses to 'Sponsor a Talking Book' and give the gift of reading this Christmas in lieu of cards or presents.

It is a Christmas gift that will truly last forever.

RNIB Cymru marked the centenary of one of the country's best-loved children's authors Roald Dahl by turning his books into Welsh language Talking Books with an event in Cardiff's National Museum on November 8.

Roald Dahl, who lived for many years in Cardiff, was himself no stranger to RNIB's Talking Books library, a collection of over 23,000 audio recordings. He voiced James and the Giant Peach in English, with a special introduction for blind and partially sighted readers.

The charity will now make his works accessible in Welsh as Talking Books for the first time and will bring in professional narrators to voice his stories. Talking Books help create a lifeline to the outside world for blind and partially sighted people. There are 6,034 Talking Books customers and over 106,000 people living with sight loss in Wales.

The RNIB Library offers a range of fiction and non-fiction titles for adults and children in braille and giant print.

To find out more about the RNIB Library call 0303 123 9999 or visit www.rnib.org.uk.

PUTTING A SOCK IN IMPULSE BUYING

DOGS Trust Bridgend is taking a stand against impulse purchasing by changing its name to Socks Trust, encouraging Brits to 'Give Socks Not Dogs' this Christmas.

To highlight the number of gift pups given up by ill-prepared owners, the charity has created an exclusive line of festive socks featuring some of the hounds left abandoned over the festive season.

One of these hounds is 'Dame Joan Collins'. Dame Joan Collins was one of a litter of six puppies that found themselves homeless. The puppies were cared for by the staff at Dogs Trust centre at Bridgend and were named after the 2015 New Year's Honours list.

Last year, Dogs Trust Bridgend received 446 calls in the weeks following Christmas from new owners wanting to give up their dog, with a



total of 121 unwanted dogs handed in during this period alone. Championing the most conventional and possibly least returned Christmas present of all – a safe pair of socks – Socks Trust is working to avoid the grim plight of puppies bought on a whim and neglected when the reality of dog ownership sinks in.

For more information about Socks Trust, and how you can buy a pair of socks to support the cause, visit www.socksstrust.org.uk and search #GiveSocksNotDogs on social media.

WI's Christmas Fair offers old favourites

RIGHT: Secretary Cynthia Sidey chats to Sker WI members manning the kitchen at the Christmas fair.



FRIDAY, November 25 was a beautiful, crisp winter morning when Sker WI held its annual Christmas Fair at Trinity Church Porthcawl.

The fair once again showcased the things that WI is most well known for – delicious homemade cakes and beautiful handmade craft items.

It proved a popular event again this year with our loyal supporters and also attracted interest from other people who came in to sample our wares as well as trying their luck on the tombola

or raffle.

All the stalls were manned by Sker WI members, as was the kitchen which served up very welcome tea and coffee.

President Nora Williams thanked everyone who came along and also thanked members who had either contributed to the stalls or given up their time to help on the day.

Don't forget, we meet on the second Thursday of the month at St David's Church Hall, at 7pm, and visitors are always welcome – so please come along and say hello!

CB

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Serendipity staff (left to right) Tracey Wyllis, Heidi Perham, Karen Mitchell, Jo Smith, Sam Curl, and Hayley Lewis.

Care and support you can trust

Finding the right type of home-care for relatives who need support can sometimes prove quite challenging.

As well as finding out exactly what care is needed, there is also the issue of finding a carer you know you can trust.

Based in Porthcawl, Serendipity Care and Support is designed to put your mind at ease by providing specialised care tailored to your individual needs, whatever they may be. Support is available to anyone from the elderly to people with mental or learning difficulties, allowing them the care and support needed to be able to live comfortably in their own homes.

Celebrating their two year anniversary this month, Serendipity Care and Support's domiciliary care are happy to announce the opening of their new offices on New Road Porthcawl.

Managing Director, Steve Cosslett says: "Our domiciliary care has grown extensively in the last two years. Our main priority is that the care we provide is of the highest standard."

From humble beginnings, Serendipity opened 5 years ago, from an idea generated by Managing Director, Steve Cosslett and Clinical Director/ Registered Mental Health Nurse Sian Penpraze.

After working as a mental health nurse for over 30 years, Sian Penpraze decided she wanted to contribute to an area, she believed, needed the extra support, this led to the couple opening a care home in 2011, for

young adults with serious mental illness.

"The idea was to provide a safe, secure and homely environment for the individuals, which I felt would enhance their mental wellbeing." Sian says.

"Our domiciliary branch came about a few years later when social services approached us and asked if we would consider branching into domiciliary care. This allowed us to extend our services into the community for people who need the support."

Serendipity's domiciliary care provide a wide range of personal and domestic care services, which are designed to help people who struggle with day-to-day living, and covers many areas including, Bridgend, Porthcawl, North Cornelly, Pencoed, Brackla and Pyle.

"Our carers are trained to the highest standard under the guidance of our manager Tracey Wyllis, guaranteeing that you are getting someone you can trust with your care." Steve says.

"Our website is currently being updated, but all of our information including all of our services, carers' training and testimonials will be available to be viewed online in the next couple of weeks."

For more information on the services provided by Serendipity Care and Support, contact 01656 760840 or email tracey.wyllis@serendipitycare.com or visit the office at 42 New Road, Porthcawl.

24 hour on call service

Serendipity
Care and Support

- Personal care services designed to support you with day to day living
- Carers you can trust
- Domestic, personal & companion care

Call 01656 760840

Lions' hampers for county care homes

BRIDGEND Lions' president John Paton and fellow member Bryant Thomas are pictured delivering large Christmas hampers to local care homes in the County Borough of Bridgend namely Bryn y Cae, Brackla; Glanffrd, Pencoed; Oaklands, Bryntirion; FoxTroy, Coytrahe and Treetops in Brynmenyn which the staff and residents were delighted to receive.



Staff, residents, Lions and dogs all join in the fun of giving and receiving hampers at Yuletide.

Bridgend county supports 'White Ribbon' campaign

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) has supported the global White Ribbon campaign by inviting local residents to put themselves in the shoes of anyone who may be suffering from domestic abuse.

The campaign focuses on ending violence against women – and councillors this week came together to be photographed with dozens of

women's shoes to stress this point – but men can be victims too.

Coun Ceri Reeves, BCBC's cabinet member for communities, said: "We are proud to support the annual White Ribbon campaign, and help to raise awareness of an issue that affects many in our communities. As a council, we are keen to be at the forefront of efforts to ensure that people don't need to suffer in silence. I would urge anyone who is affected by domestic abuse to speak to someone who can provide essential support."

Memories of Stormy Down?



NEXT year Porthcawl Museum will be holding a major exhibition about RAF Stormy Down.

Stormy Down was first planned in 1937 and became operational in 1939. During the war years, large numbers of airmen from the UK, Commonwealth countries and occupied Europe were trained at the camp's gunnery schools; sadly, more

than 50 of them lost their lives during training.

We would like to ask if any local people have artefacts, photographs or memories of Stormy Down that they might like to share, and perhaps have included in the exhibition?

If so, please contact me or Rob Taylor at the museum or leave a message on 07518 776773.

David Swidenbank, Porthcawl.

A Golden Tree from Sker WI

AFTER all the planning and artistic discussion, Sker WI finally displayed its 'Golden Christmas Tree' in All Saints' Church, Porthcawl.

The theme was chosen as part of our 50th anniversary and Porthcawl's annual Christmas tree festival was an ideal event to celebrate this important milestone.

Our tree was one of many splendid trees representing many local organisations and businesses. Throughout the week of the festival,

the trees formed a bright, colourful and seasonal backdrop to the other festive activities taking place in the church.

Our thanks go to Celtic Care Swansea Ltd for the loan of the Christmas tree and to Kate Owen, Gloria Long and other members of Sker WI for contributing to the finished design.

Don't forget we meet on the second Thursday of the month at St David's church hall, at 7pm and visitors are always welcome.

CHRISTINE BEYNON

Schoolboy 'saw' his chance to help charity!



SCHOOLBOY Jacob Rimmon 'saw' the need to raise funds for Children in Need and came up with this ingenious idea.

Observing that old trees and branches had been cut down in his garden, he decided to give them a new lease of life and make some festive animals, then sold them at school – raising over £200 for the charity.

Maesteg 'fun run'

AS part of the Llynfi Valley 20 programme and in conjunction with HALO Leisure and Yr Hen Blwyf – Old Parish Running Club, Maesteg will hold a 5,000-metre fun run at Maesteg Welfare Park on Saturday, December 17 at 9am.

A spokeswoman said:

"The run is open to all, and the entrance fee is wearing a festive Christmas hat! Please note that all children aged under 10, must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Registration on the day is open from 8am, with the first 100 people to register receiving a medal on return of their run number."

Further details available at www.bavo.org.uk or 01656 810400.

Nearly Christmas dinner gives helping hand to charities

THE Nearly Christmas dinner and presentation evening for the Bridgend County Civic Charity was held on Friday evening at the Heronston Best Western Hotel.

It was very enjoyable and successful. Master of ceremonies was the Bridgend Assembly Member Carwyn Jones, First Minister for Wales, with an excellent special guest entertainer Frank Hennessy.

During the course of the evening presentations were made to the 2015/2016 chosen charities and some smaller charities within the county borough of Bridgend by the former Mayor, Coun Richard Young, from the total amount of £9,800.

The MC thanked everyone who had contributed to raising the wonderful amount in difficult financial times. Then he introduced Frank Hennessy, who proved to be much more than a musical entertainer.

The Mayor of the county, Coun Reg Jenkins, thanked everybody for attending and making a success of the event for the Kidney Wales Foundation, renal department at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend; Crossroads Care Bridgend, and Heronsbridge School Bridgend's 'Summer School' project. The evening will add £450 to the 2016/2017 charities.

The next event takes place at St Mary's Church, Nollton, Bridgend on December 14 at 6.30pm, a community charity carol service with Rev Canon Michael Komor.

There will be a collection for the chosen charities during the service.

MARI MAJOR

SEND YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS TO THE GEM. SEE OUR FULL CONTACT DETAILS ON PAGE 2.

Who wants to build what and where in the county?

Mrs Mary Keene – 11 Caer Cynffig, North Cornelly – Ramped access arrangements from public footpath to front entrance and window installation to existing shower/wc to first floor.

Mr and Mrs M Cadogan – Garden of 1, Heol Gadlys, Llichard – Erection of one dwelling.

Mr Christopher Pinkham – Anchorage, Bryneglwys Avenue, Porthcawl – Approval of details for condition 2 of P/15/656/FUL.

Mr Neil Williams – 1 Woodland Place, North Cornelly – Two storey extension to the side of existing dwelling.

Greggs plc – Unit 2, 15 Coychurch Road, Pencoed – Two new fascia signs, one new projecting sign and two internal window graphics.

Mr Steven Lewis – 8 Llan Road, Llangynwyd – Removal of existing wall from driveway to gate, addition of retaining wall and new yellow brick face wall up to the height of 4.5ft if needed.

Wales & West Housing Association – 75 Llys Gwyn, Bridgend – Single storey extension to rear to provide a disabled accessible bedroom and shower room and ramp access to front porch.

Heron Chapel – Hermon Chapel, Nollton Street, Bridgend – Construct covered canopy from rear door to ladies' toilet (7.2m long).

FL Morgan – 11 Brian Crescent, Porthcawl – Porch to front, first floor extension for bedroom and study.

Michael Aubrey – 26 Rowans Lane, Bryncethin – Two storey side extension for garage and bedroom above.

Mr Michael Phillips – 13 Carreg Llwyd, Broadlands, Bridgend – Detached studio and shed.

Wales Police Headquarters, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend – Construct a single storey cafe building with ancillary spaces for use by the South Wales Police (alternative to approved cafe P/16/701/FUL).

Stormy Down Recycling Ltd – Land adjacent to Stormy Down Quarry, Heol y Sploitt, Pyle – Approval of details for Condition 11 of P/14/830/FUL.

Mr R Powell – 2 Masefield Mews, Cefn Glas – Dormer extension to provide bedrooms and en-suite.

Mr Matthew Lawrence – Land adjoining 50b Cefn Glas Road, Cefn Glas – Fell and remove several ash trees.

BCBC Children's Directorate – Betws Primary School, Betws Road, Betws – Remove Condition 19 of P/15/791/BCB.

McDonalds Restaurants Ltd – McDonalds Restaurant, Bridgend Retail Park, Waterton – Alterations to elevations to include the addition of extensions totalling 39.7sqm, cladding to the roof and new drive-thru booths, inclusive of a new fast forward booth, a new goal post height restrictor and associated works to the site.

McDonalds Restaurant Ltd – McDonalds Restaurant, Bridgend Retail Park, Picton Court, Bridgend – Installation of new signage.

McDonalds Restaurants Ltd – McDonalds Restaurant, Picton Court Retail Park, Waterton, Bridgend – Installation of eight new fascia signs.

Mr Ian Jones – Bryngwynnog, Hendre Road, Coity – Proposed replacement agricultural shed.

Mrs Lindsay Windle – 17 Clos Pwll Clai, Tondur – Change garage into playroom and utility area.

Nottage Girl Guides celebrate 50th anniversary

THE Nottage Girl Guide group celebrated their 50th anniversary on November 16 with a special tea at St David's Church Hall, Nottage.

The Mayor and Mayoress attended with Helen Murdock, president of the Girl Guide Association, assistant County Commissioner Kim Hilling; Dona Jaka, leader Nottage Guides and assistant leader Doreen Redmond, Ann Trimble (former leader) and today's Guides and former Guides.

Included in the celebrations were the many helpers and volunteers.



Former Guides and helpers.

Pictures by
**MALCOLM
NUGENT.**



'Be cool this Yule' says AM

OGMORE AM Huw Irranca-Davies recently added his voice to party colleagues supporting trade union USDAW's 'Freedom From Fear' campaign in Cardiff and pledged his support to help protect shop workers.

Apparently, more than 300 shop workers are abused or assaulted every day in the workplace. The union seeks to highlight the abuse that some workers suffer while doing their jobs and asks for people to 'keep their cool', particularly during the Christmas period.



'Please give me a home!'

THIS week's Dog of the Week at Dogs Trust Bridgend, is Sidney, an 11-month-old Border Collie, very clever and active, who needs to live in an experienced Collie home.

He will need plenty of off-lead exercise to burn off his energy in an adult only home with no visiting young children.

If you are interested in Sidney, you will need to make multiple visits at the centre to build up a bond. For more information please call 01656 725219, or visit the website.

Dogs Trust Bridgend has its Christmas Fair on Sunday, December 11 at Court Colman Hotel in Bridgend, CF31 4NG, between 11am and 3pm; over 20 Christmas gift stalls, Santa's grotto for children, festive games, and refreshments.



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SATURDAY DECEMBER 10th
DIANA ROSS Tribute Show
Featuring "JACKIE WEBB"
I'M COMING OUT, UPSIDE DOWN, ENDLESS LOVE, REACH OUT AND TOUCH, WHY DO FOOLS FALL IN LOVE, CHAIN REACTION, AND MANY MORE.....

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17th
SIMPLY RED Tribute Show
Featuring "RED MICK"
STARS, FAIRGROUND, HOLDING BACK THE YEARS, MONEY'S TOO TIGHT, SUNRISE, IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME BYE NOW, AND MANY MORE.....

Finnegans Inn, 5-8 Station Approach Road, Barry Island Enquiries Call 01446 749355
Entrance is free but subject to our discretion and pub watch scheme etc. Follow Us On Facebook

Bridgend refuse measures 'draconian' says AM

ASSEMBLY member Caroline Jones has slammed the decision of Bridgend County Borough Council to restrict households to a collection of two black bags a fortnight from April

The UKIP AM for South Wales West claims such a move is "draconian" and will cause an outcry – and she believes the idea of allowing enforcement officers to open black bags to discover the contents is making it like a "police state."

She said: "The Bridgend cabinet must think again because such a move is penalising people living in flats and with children. The whole scheme is ridiculous."

"I know money is tight but there are other ways of making savings. People are so annoyed by this suggestion that they are talking about dumping rubbish on the steps of the council offices. But I would urge the council not to allow it to come to this."

"I have had so many constituents complain about this, I know it is going to cause a furore," she added.

Urgent dental work

AS was reported in last week's GEM, the Denture Design Centre in the Crosby Industrial Estate, Wildmill, Bridgend, will be operating an emergency dental repair morning over the Christmas break.

However, the correct date is Thursday, December 29, 10am until noon. For more information, call the laboratory number (01656 767806).

Samantha B
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AS was reported in last week's GEM, the Denture Design Centre in the Crosby Industrial Estate, Wildmill, Bridgend, will be operating an emergency dental repair morning over the Christmas break.

However, the correct date is Thursday, December 29, 10am until noon. For more information, call the laboratory number (01656 767806).

4 Wick Road, Ewenny, CF35 5BL
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OPEN MON-SAT 10AM-5PM

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE the LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS

Llansantffraid Church LAST Friday, December 2 I attended the carol concert at this church.

I would like to congratulate Stephen Pare the rector and the hard-working church members who put on such a good show.

The church had invited the community minded Ogmere Valley Male Voice Choir, which had turned up en masse to guide the members of the public with the carols by issuing song sheets to everyone.

Its musical director Eira Paskin was also the compère; she is so relaxed and encourages the audience to participate. Like every choir it also depends a great deal on its accompanist Gareth Waite who plays the music with such verve.

Everyone joined in singing these popular carols, while the choir sang more as they entertained us. There were tables laid out with Christmas decorations and goodies for sale.

Everyone was offered mince pies and a glass of mulled wine, during the interval. My wife and I truly enjoyed the carol concert performed by the choir.

Cor Meibion Maesteg ar Cylch (Maesteg and District Male Choir)

THE choir is practising hard at the Maesteg Celtic Rugby Club in preparation for its annual concert.

Rhian Jenkins, Huw Morgan and Ryan Wood are putting the choir through their paces with some of the old favourite Welsh Hymns which the audience love to hear there will also be additional surprises.

The concert will be at the Maesteg Town Hall in January.

Saint Michael's and All Saints' Church, Maesteg

ON Friday, December 16 at 7.15pm there will be a Christmas concert in the church with entertainment provided by Noteworthy mixed voice choir, Cor Tadau Trisant and soprano Charlotte Ellett

Tickets are £7 at the door and all funds raised will be donated to Cancer Research.

St David's Church, Betws

ON Sunday, December 11 the Young Farmers of Betws will be holding its annual Christmas carol concert at 7.30pm in the church, everyone is welcome.

Aberkenfig Square

MEMBERS of the public are invited to the annual Christmas carol song festival in the square on Wednesday, December 21 at 7.30pm.

Pisgah Chapel, Kenfig Hill

THERE is a community concert at the chapel on Monday, December 12 starting at 7pm.

The annual carol concert must be one of the best in Bridgend County Borough and will have over 200 chorists taking part, consisting of choirs from Cefn Cribwr Primary School, Pil Primary School, Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger, Mynydd Cynffig juniors, Afon Y Felin and the classic Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir.

Sarn Community Life Centre

ON Friday, December 16 St Bride's Minor Civic Department will hold a carol service at 7pm.

Aberkenfig and District United Churches

THE churches are organising a walk of witness between Bethlehem Chapel, Brynmynyn, to Nazareth Chapel, Bryncethin, setting off from Bethlehem Chapel at 10am.

Tondu Primary School

MRS Susan Pilsher, the headteacher would like to advise parents of children at the school of the dates of the school concerts.

Monday, December 12 at 2pm and Tuesday, December 13 at 10am.

Years 3/4 students' concerts (Llynfi, Ogwr, Rhondda): Tuesday, December 13 at 6pm and Wednesday, December 14 at 2pm.

Year 5/6 students' concerts (Taf, Tawe, Usk): Tuesday, December 13 at 2pm and Wednesday, December 14 at 6pm.

Younger siblings are welcome; however, please understand that if they make a noise, it will be your responsibility to take them out of the concert so as not to cause disruption. Thank you for your cooperation.

The school will be raising money for the charity Save the Children on Friday, December 16. We would like everyone to wear something 'Christmassy'. Please send in any donations you would like to make to the charity.

Green Hall (Community Centre) Cefn Cribwr

THERE will be the annual village Christmas carol service, Christmas Around the World, on Friday, December 9 at 6pm in the Green Hall.

With traditional carols and readings, it also features pupils of Cefn Primary and Cynffig Comprehensive schools.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

Cefn School Christmas concerts

THE nursery children concert 'Shine Star Shine' is at the school hall on Tuesday, December 13 at 2pm and on Wednesday 14 at 10am.

Cefn charity collections

CEFN Gwyrdd, which has existed for 33 years, will once again be carol singing from door to door while rattling the charity tin on Monday, December 19.

The village is too large to visit every street, so this year it will be visiting the western end of the village meeting at Ty Isaf at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome and will receive a song sheet, but remember to wrap up warm and bring a torch.

Saint Bride's Church, Llansantffraid

ON Sunday, December 18 at 6pm there will be a Christmas carol service with mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

On Christmas Eve there will be a Midnight Mass starting at 11.30pm.

Saint David's Church, Betws

ON Christmas Eve at 4pm there will be a Christingle service with the children of Betws Primary School. Everyone is welcome.

The story of the Christingle is that there were three children, who were very poor, but wanted to give a gift to Jesus, like the other families at church were doing. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give him that. The top was going slightly green, so the eldest cut it out and put a candle in the hole. They thought it looked dull, so the youngest girl took her best red ribbon from her hair and attached it round the middle with toothpicks. The middle child had the idea to put a few pieces of dried fruit on the ends of the sticks. They took it to the church for the Christmas mass, and whereas the other children sneered at their meagre gift, the priest took their gift and showed it as an example of true understanding of the meaning of Christmas.

On Christmas Day there is the Eucharist service at 10am.

Saint John's Church, Aberkenfig

THERE is a Christmas celebration Eucharist service at 9am.

Ogmere Valley Male Voice Choir

THIS busy choir (a registered charity) uses any money raised to cover the costs of maintenance on its concert hall, and transport to perform in concerts in aid of fundraising for charities in other venues.

On Tuesday, December 13 it will perform in a concert with children from Ogmere Vale Primary School at Canolfan Bethlehem Centre in Ogmere Vale, which was a Welsh chapel that the choir has converted into a concert hall, used for choir practice and choral concerts.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
Tel: 01656 725399 • E-Mail: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Ogmere Valley Male Voice Choir performing.



Musical director Eira Paskin and accompanist Gareth Waite.

Porthcawl talent shines at Young Musician contest



Left to right: Coun Rob Lee, Samuel Finch, Indeg Evans, Barbara Stubbs, Lucy Rathkey and Laurence Hunt.

THE Rotary Club of Porthcawl has held its annual Rotary Young Musician competition during the Christmas Tree festival and the contest has shown that, indeed, there is some great local talent.

Held at All Saints' Church, the competition brought together musicians from three local schools whose music ranged from a modern arrangement of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' to Bach, Brahms, Borkiewicz, Fauré, Grieg and Bodorova.

It was a wonderful evening for all those who attended, including the Mayor of Porthcawl

Mr Rob Lee and his wife, Mayoress Ann Lee, with the sound of the piano and flute enhanced by the fantastic acoustics of the church.

The overall winner was pianist Laurence Hunt from Porthcawl Comprehensive School who brilliantly played Bach's Fugue in C Minor and Brahms' Balladen, Opus 10.

Laurence won a prize of £50 and was the first recipient of a new award of a winner's shield presented in memory of the greatly missed Ann Jarrett – a former headteacher of St Clare's School and a Rotarian, who did so much for the club over many years, much of it involving music and young people in

particular.

Laurence now goes forward to the national final of the Rotary Young Musician competition which will be held at the Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff next year.

Runner-up to Laurence was flautist Samuel Finch from Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School who won a prize of £20 for his beautiful playing of the fourth movement of Bach's Sonata in E Minor and Fauré's Pavane.

Congratulations must also go to pianists Indeg Evans from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Lucy Rathkey, also from Archbishop McGrath, who provided some stiff competition

to the winners, their music also having been played to a standard worthy of such a forward-looking competition.

The Rotary Club of Porthcawl would like to wish all the musicians the very best for their musical future and also to another entrant, Hee-Chan Kang, who had to withdraw at the last moment to attend an entrance examination for Oxford University.

Thanks must also go to the adjudicators, David Shillaw, Aldon Rees and Tony Stradling; the compère for the evening, Rotarian Wayne Warlow and to Rotarian Barbara Stubbs and her Youth Services committee for organising the event.

IVOR WILLIAMS

Countdown to festive concert



The Tabernacl Music Society's choir.

TABERNACL Music Society's Christmas concert will be held on December 16 at Capel y Tabernacl, Derwen Road, Bridgend at 7pm.

The choir and musical director Matthew Nash will welcome back the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band, conducted by Alan Bourne, to present a programme of music to suit all tastes.

In addition to traditional and modern carols, the programme includes 'Gloria' and 'Candlelight' (John Rutter), 'Fantasia on Christmas Carols' (Vaughan Williams), 'Walking in the Air' (Howard Blake), two Christmas Spirituals (arr. Malcolm Sargent) and two new pieces written especially for the choir, 'Newyddion Da' by Kevin Adams, former musical director of the choir, and 'Bitter Song' by Richard Logan, who

sings with the bass section.

Also taking part, are popular youth choirs, Da Capo and Crescendo, who are part of Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir. In 2014 Crescendo recorded their first album 'Cana O Dy Galon' in the Ty Cerdd recording studios at the Millennium Centre, Cardiff. Tickets £10, from choir members or at the door.

Ty Hafan decks castle walls not with holly, but Snowdogs at charity gig

A SING-ALONG under the stars, fireworks and a pack of giant snowdogs kicked off the festive season at Ty Hafan's 'Carols in the Castle'.

More than 2,800 partygoers enjoyed performances from singers Richie Jones and Russell Jones, Bryncoch Choir, Superchoir and Britain's Got Talent 2015 finalists Mel and Jamie at Cardiff Castle.

Sponsored by One Stop and presented by Heart DJs Jagger and Woody, the event took place against the backdrop of the castle, complete with a hog roast dinner, snow machine, donkeys and a Christmas market, and ended with a firework display.

The event also included the launch of Ty Hafan's biggest ever campaign, Snowdogs: Tails in Wales.

This 'public art' trail across Cardiff will see 1.5m tall sculptures – based on the much-loved animated film The Snowman and the Snowdog – placed at landmarks and open spaces all across the city next autumn.

The launch saw a pack of Snowdog

sculptures scampering around the castle battlements, including one designed by Gren's son Darryl Jones, complete with rugby pitch and sheep, a candy-striped version with intricate sketches by artist Lowri Davies and a sing-along under the stars with all our favourite carols and enjoy good food and a spot of Christmas shopping at the stalls.

"The amazing fireworks at the end of the night really made the most of the stunning



'Snowdogs' at the concert.

another painted with handprints by staff and children at the hospice.

Each snowdog will be sponsored and auctioned off at the end of the campaign.

Sara Webber, general manager, marketing, communications and events at Ty Hafan, said: "It was great fun to have

scenery of the castle.

"But the highlight of the night for me was spotting the snowdog sculptures around the castle as we launched our exciting campaign – I can't wait to see them taking over Cardiff's streets, parks and buildings next year," Sara added.



Belting out the Christmas classics at the Ty Hafan concert.

Vale MP: 'Riding schools under threat'

HIGHER business rates are not only a threat to rural enterprises such as horse riding schools according to the British Horse Riding Society and Vale MP Alun Cairns.



Alun Cairns with Sarah Phillips at the Argae House Riding School near Dinas Powys.

The British Horse Society invited Mr Cairns to discuss the issue at the Argae House Riding School near Dinas Powys. Sarah Phillips, director of the society in Wales, explained to Mr Cairns that hundreds of

riding schools may close due to higher rates.

The periodic re-valuation of business rates has become an important local issue across the country, with many small businesses expecting to see their costs increase. The new rateable values, and thus new rates, will come into effect from April next year.

Mrs Phillips said: "The percentage increase in rateable value for riding schools and livery yards is considerably more than the average increase for all businesses in the same region.

"There is often an assumption that all those involved with horses are wealthy, this is most certainly not the case. Many families have invested all they have in their small riding school businesses, and now face going bust.

"I know of many riding schools that are already closing in anticipation of the higher rates."

Mr Cairns said: "It is not only High Streets that lose out as a result of higher rates. I am very concerned about the impact on other rural enterprises such as riding schools and equestrian centres.

"These businesses are an important part of rural life, and a vital part of the rural economy."

Mr Cairns said he was lobbying the Welsh Government to establish a more generous rate-relief package, similar to the scheme that will be available in England from the start of April next year.

He said: "In England, from April, businesses with a rateable value below £12,000 will pay no business rates, and those with a value up to £18,000 will have their rates significantly reduced. I would like to see the Welsh Government follow suit to protect important small businesses, such as equestrian centres, here in Wales."

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Penarth Ramblers explore the local sights in the Vale

A GROUP of 11 walkers and Pepper the spaniel joined Joy from Penarth and District Ramblers at Eastbrook Station for a linear walk through the delightful Vale.

Heading up through houses a journey through fields with views to Llandough led them up to Penyturmpike Wood, then down through Casehill Wood to walk beside the Cadoxton brook and up through Michaelston-le-Pit via Cwrt-yr-Ala Road.

With misty views through the Michaelston valley towards Garth Hill and navigating their way under some fallen trees in the wood, the open Cwm Slade led them on towards Wenoe village. Circumnavigating the new housing development and following the lane from Burdonshill towards Wenoe Castle, upon reaching Goldsland Farm and entering fields, a wooden footbridge led them across the brook for the short climb up to Port Road.

After lunching in a quiet field and passing through the Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium, two walkers left to walk back to Barry whilst the remainder continued downhill on a path adjacent to Pencoeatre Wood.

Arriving at Lidl, five walkers and Pepper made their escape to tramp back to Dinas Powys, while the remaining five continued through Gilbert Lane and across Pencoeatre fields to make their way to the simple but lovely Old Village Church in Cadoxton, dedicated to St Cadoc for a look inside, as it was open. Then climbing uphill and through Victoria Park a short walk downhill led them back to the finishing point at Cadoxton Railway Station.

Only three walkers, including newcomer David joined Pam and Krys at Radyr Station before tramping through Junction Terrace, the first street to be built in the area to house workers following the coming of the railways.

Entering Radyr Woods, once part of Radyr Court's walled deer park, they followed pathways to a railway bridge, then a riverside path to Llandaff North bridge to cross the River Taff and join part of the Taff Trail. At Hailey Park which was named after the family who gifted the land to the council, lots of young people were playing rugby and, passing beneath a disused railway bridge, they moved on to the Melingriffith Water Pump.

In 1749, the Melingriffith Tinplate Works at Radyr used water from the River Taff which passed down the Melingriffith feeder stream and the water pump was designed to lift water from the bottom of the feeder back into the Glamorgan Canal, the

group's next port of call. Opened in 1794 for the transportation of iron goods from Merthyr Tydfil to the port of Cardiff, the only remaining part of the canal is now home to birds, plants and insects, along with visitors who enjoy the peace and tranquillity.

Joining a road then woodland paths beside the River Taff and making their way past the new Radyr hydro scheme, which uses river water to power turbines attached to a generator to provide electricity, a footbridge led them back to their start.

On December 10, meet at Redbrink Crescent, Barry Island for an 11-mile moderate walk taking in the Barry beaches, Rhose Point and Porthkerry Park; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On December 14, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile easy walk taking in the two Severn Bridges in south Gloucestershire; contact William on 07528 701 952.

Contact the walk leader for any advice. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

'A SUNDAY MORNING RAMBLE IS GOOD FOR YOUR ELF'

ON Sunday, a wonderfully crisp winter walk by Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers was led by Bill and John from Cowbridge to Aberthyn, Prisk, Trerhyngyll, and Pen-y-Lan, returning to Cowbridge from the west.

It was a bright sunny day and we encountered a great variety of equine friends in the open fields enjoying the glorious weather. Once again, we used our Pathwatch apps to report some problematic stiles.

Many thanks to the Ramblers for this very useful device. Back to Cowbridge for refreshments where we saw an astounding assortment of Santas and elves biking through the town in all their finery.

If you are interested in walking, do come and join us. See our website for contact details: www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk. You can also visit and like our Facebook page for notifications.

Our next walk on Sunday, December 11 will be at Dinbath and Ogwr Fach, meeting at Cowbridge Town Hall Carpark at 9am. JB

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After 36 years, Mo and Glyn tie the knot at Marie Curie

A COUPLE, who have been in a relationship for nearly four decades, finally tied the knot in front of family and friends.

But Maureen and Glyn Davies didn't book a church for their long awaited nuptials. Instead the pair, from Penarth, gathered with their loved ones at the Marie Curie - Cardiff and the Vale hospice in the town, a spokeswoman reported.

Mo and Glyn - known as Bryn to his family and friends - became husband and wife (after 35 years of living together) in the hospice's newly refurbished day therapy unit, looking out onto the coast.

Glyn had been staying at the hospice, which provides 24-hour expert care and support for those living with a terminal illness, to receive symptom control for his prostate cancer, which he has been living with since 2012.

When someone told them it was possible to get married there, they jumped at the chance, and within hours the date was set.

Maureen, who turned 75 just days before walking down the aisle, spoke of when the pair met 36 years ago.

"We met in a club called Scaramoush. I never used to go clubbing, but this one night, a friend said to me, 'Come on, we'll go out', and that's where I met him. He was such a nice guy."

"The first night we went out together, we just went for a meal and he dropped me at home."

It wasn't long until the pair moved in together, but it would take Glyn quite a while to get a ring on Maureen's finger.

"We were planning to get married anyway, for different reasons, for pension and stuff like that, so that Mo would not have to go searching around for money," said Glyn, 72.

Maureen added: "He's wanted to get married before, but I wasn't ready having gone through a divorce."

"He's marvellous; I would not get anyone like him. He's the most trustworthy and honest man you could ever meet."



ABOVE: Maureen and Glyn on their special day.

"He's so honest, gentle and very thoughtful. There's nothing bad I could say about him. My children feel the same, and look up to him as their dad - in fact, they call him dad."

Speaking of when he was diagnosed, Glyn said: "I'd had a nagging pain in the bottom of my back. I thought I'd go down the doctors and get it checked over Christmas and I went to the Heath (University of Wales Hospital, Cardiff)."

"She said it could be cancer, sent me for a test, and it came back that it was."

"The progression has been quite slow. It's taken four years to go from a slight niggly ache to anything worse, so that's not too bad, I can't expect any more than that."

Glyn said that he'd never wanted to have to use the services at the Marie Curie hospice, but that since being an inpatient, he's been pleasantly surprised at the upbeat atmosphere.

"It's absolutely brilliant, I can't fault it," he said.

Maureen said the care Glyn has received could not be better.

"They have been so supportive, giving me cups of tea and plenty of support. We're both happy with the care and how they look after him, nothing is too much for

any of the staff," she added.

Glyn said it was only recently that he'd found out his own father had died of prostate cancer - but that he was doing all he could to pass information on to his own son.

"I've made sure that my son knew all about prostate cancer, how to keep on top of it, get PSA tests (a blood test that can

detect the early signs of an enlarged prostate) and look after himself," he said.

Following the marriage, the couple cut one of two cakes they had - one made by staff at the hospice - and enjoyed a buffet with their guests.

The couple thanked all the staff at the hospice for helping on their special day.

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COWBRIDGE CHARITY LUNCH AT THE BEAR RAISES £14,000 FOR VELINDRE

AN annual event that has become a highly popular date in the Vale calendar raised a magnificent £14,000 for the Velindre Hospital charity appeal at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, organised by delighted owners Julian and Esther Hitchcock.

Among the special guests present at The charity/auction lunch on Friday, December 2, were Welsh rugby celebrities and Velindre 'Ambassadors', Jonathan Davies and Martyn Williams, pictured below with WRU chairman Gareth Davies.



ABOVE: There was entertainment from Owen Money.



ALL PICTURES
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GLADSTONE PUPILS FILL 145 GIFT SHOEBOXES FOR CHARITY



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THE festive season is truly under way at Gladstone Primary School, with concerts and parties planned during the next two weeks.

However, as well as celebrating, children and staff at Gladstone demonstrated the true meaning of Christmas by donating a staggering 145 filled shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child appeal this year. The collection van arrived in the

school yard last Tuesday and was greeted by the whole school forming a human chain to transport the boxes from the school hall and safely into the van. Led by teacher Sarah Creasey, the children counted each box as they were loaded.

Ms Creasey said: "Once again, we are blown away by the generosity of our Gladstone families. Thanks to those who donated, we will bring pleasure to 145 children in other parts of the world."

£22,175 share-out for Vale groups

EIGHTEEN sports clubs and organisations from across the Vale of Glamorgan have recently benefited from a share of Community Chest awards totalling £22,175 to help them develop existing, or create new, sporting opportunities in the Vale.

Barry Squash Club was one of the organisations chosen to receive funding; they will develop squash opportunities for women and girls in Barry.

Engaging more girls in sports and physical activity is one of the priority areas for the Vale Council's sports and play development team, who hope to link this new squash opportunity to their 'Girls on the Move' programme, which has recently seen Glowminton successfully increase female participation in sport.

372 (Barry) Squadron Air Training Corps are also hoping to attract more females to take part in activity.

They were awarded funding to increase the number of cadets playing hockey, with a focus on increasing female participation.

Another priority area in the Vale is the development of opportunities for disabled people.

The Intersensory Club runs cycling sessions twice a week for disabled people, both of which take place at Jenner Park Stadium, Barry.

They have adapted bicycles that can be used by members of the public, and have received funding to buy more bicycles to help include people with autism.

Coaching and umpiring education is also a priority for the Community Chest panel, which has awarded funding to a number of clubs in order

to enable them to send their volunteers on training courses, including: first aid, child protection training, and umpiring/refereeing courses.

The clubs that benefited from funding for coaching and umpiring training include: Wenvoe Colts FC, Old Penarthians RFC, Barry Basketball Club, Hen Goleg League of Friends, Cowbridge Hockey Club, Vale Cricket Club, Cowbridge RFC Mini & Junior Section, Penarth Cricket Club, Vale Vipers Basketball and Penarth Town AFC.

The other clubs successful in receiving funding during this round of the Community Chest scheme were: Great Western Cricket Club, Llantwit Major Tennis Club, Glamorgan Anglers, Peterston Junior FC and Barry YMCA Male Artistic Club.

The Community Chest scheme is funded by Sport Wales and managed locally by the Vale Council's sports and play development team.

The final round for Community Chest funding for this financial year will take place on February 2, with the deadline for submitting applications being January 19.

Any club or organisation interested in applying for funding is requested to contact the sports and play development team first, to check that their project is eligible for funding.

The Community Chest scheme contributes to the council's objectives of increasing health and wellbeing among its residents, and increasing skills and education.

To find out further information contact the sports and play development team on 01446 704793.

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Dog foul bags abandoned on park land



Abandoned bags of dog foul.

A resident of The Pastures in Barry has complained about the amount of dog refuse bags that have been abandoned nearby.

In the park land area bordering Whitewell Road, bags with dogs' mess have been left strewn on the ground.

The resident said: "It has happened in a couple of areas. It is disgusting – and I think if people had Christmas visitors who went for a walk, they would be disgusted, too."

When The GEM visited the area, one walker said bins had been removed and that had possibly led to people abandoning their bags.

The GEM approached the Vale Council and a spokesman said the area was not an adopted highway and was the responsibility of Persimmon Homes.

A spokesman for Persimmon Homes East Wales said: "The litter bins were removed from the development because, unfortunately, they were being abused by dog owners depositing their waste. Dog waste is classed as contaminated waste and is not only dangerous, but also expensive to dispose of."

"We are continuing to seek a transfer of the green space from our ownership to the council, at which point we will reinstate the bins."

GIFT shoppers searching for inspiration or something a little bit special this Christmas will be delighted to know of a unique new shopping experience in south Wales.

The spacious shop at The Royal Mint Experience, The Royal Mint's new visitor attraction in Llantrisant, offers an enticing range of gifts from collectable coins to books and chocolate coins – perfect presents or stocking fillers for family and friends of all ages.

A Royal Mint spokeswoman said: "Particularly popular this Christmas is that well known bunny, Peter Rabbit."

"The limited edition Beatrix Potter character gift set contains commemorative 50p coins featuring Peter and friends Mrs Tiggy Winkle, Squirrel Nutkin and Jemima Puddleduck."

"The Beatrix Potter coins caused a stir when they were launched individually this year, and the silver editions sold out in record time. The circulating editions are the most highly

sought after 50p pieces in people's pockets and purses this year.

"The UK's first commemorative Christmas coin features a festive nativity scene and is proving to be another strong favourite."

"No Christmas would be complete without chocolate coins – which can be found here in the shape of a giant chocolate £1, or a selection of chocolate coins encased in a piggy bank."

"Visitors can seize a chance to book a 'Royal Mint Experience' factory tour during their visit, or simply relax and enjoy a cup of festive hot chocolate in the bright and airy café. Families can take advantage of a range of free activities all through December too."

"Those who can't make it to The Royal Mint Experience in person might like to take a look at The Royal Mint Christmas online shop."

The Royal Mint has an unbroken history of minting British coinage dating back over 1,000 years.

By the late 13th century it was based in the Tower of London, and remained there for over 500 years.

By 1812, The Royal

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Mint had moved out of the Tower to premises on London's Tower Hill. In 1967, the building of a new Royal Mint began on its current site in south Wales.

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The Royal Mint has been making official military campaign medals since it was



commissioned to make awards for soldiers who fought in the battle of Waterloo in 1815.

The year 2012 was of particular significance for The Royal Mint's medal-making team, with the manufacture of all 4,700 Victory Medals for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

LEFT:
This year's Nativity coin.

ABOVE:
The new shop at The Royal Mint in Llantrisant.

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Bleed For This takes you 12 rounds

BOXING films seem to be a common thread in the world of cinema; if Rocky proved to be the breakthrough all those years ago, since then all manner of tales, both true and fictional, set in the ring have found their way to the big screen.

The latest is *Bleed For This*, the story of boxer Vinny Pazienza (Miles Teller), who is a classic underdog, battling his way to success against all the odds alongside his trainer Kevin Rooney (Aaron Eckhart). However, after landing a world title, Vinny finds himself in a car crash that leaves him with a broken neck. With no guarantee that he will be able to even walk again, Vinny begins a long journey to full fitness – but will he be able to return to the sport he loves?

As well as being popular, boxing films tend to follow a similar trajectory – success,

followed by disaster before an against-all-odds triumph leaves the film on a high note. *Bleed For This* doesn't deviate from this path (in fact, it treads a path that cleaves very close indeed to this) but what it does do is instil in itself a sense of personality and character that makes it hugely watchable and very captivating.

It's led by Miles Teller's performance in the lead role; Vinny is a scrappy boxer, whose passion and determination takes him far, as well as a personality and character that makes him more interesting than your average pugilist (he memorably arrives at a weigh-in early on wearing only a gown and a posing pouch), and Teller infuses his performance with these elements to make for an enthralling lead performance.

While his cocksure personality gives way to more inward stoicism post-accident, he becomes no less engaging, and Teller's ability to convey both sides of



by GARETH JAMIESON

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Pazienza's story (as well as a physical commitment to the role) means he shines brightly.

He shares a superb chemistry with Aaron Eckhart, who brings added depth to the role of grizzled

trainer. Both Eckhart's Kevin and Vinny have something to prove, and if their relationship takes time to get going, their connection engages, with the former impressing nearly as much as Teller.

Around them are some fine character actors given material to get stuck into, in particular Ciaran Hinds as Vinny's omnipresent father and Katey Sagal as his nifty mother, which makes this a very well-acted film with believable characters you can root for.

The film is written and directed by Ben Younger, who's been unable to match the achievements of his underrated debut *Boiler Room* way back in 2000, but who shows an understated confidence here.

Certainly he doesn't attempt to reinvent this genre of film, and plays by the rules too closely at times (there are elements of *The Fighter* in Vinny's familial relationships, while *Million Dollar Baby*'s emotional wallop lingers at times) but he gives the story

and its characters depth and dimension that allow you to forgive this.

Similarly, his direction is understated and grittily shot (the car accident is bluntly filmed with no recourse to melodrama) but it suits the mood and feel of the film well.

It's a story that feels like it's been told before – but its the personality and depth afforded to *Bleed For This* that elevates it above its genre foundations, and is a triumph for both Younger and his cast, in particular Miles Teller.

VERDICT: A boxing film that takes you 12 rounds, *Bleed For This* outstrips its slightly-predictable story arc to make for something wholly captivating. Ben Younger's script and direction are unfussy and told straight, while the performances, especially Miles Teller's bruised central turn, are immensely watchable. **Recommended.**

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Fighter* (2010), *Million Dollar Baby* (2004).

Barry's radio hams celebrate



BARRY Amateur Radio Society recently celebrated the club's 50th anniversary at a dinner at the Sully Social and Sports Club, where the club has been based for many years.

Club chairman, Glyn Jones, is pictured cutting the anniversary cake.

Ice Central rink hailed a 'huge success'

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ice Council's Ice Central has been hailed a huge success after more than 4,000 people got their skates on during the nine-day event.

A total of 4,166 took to the ice as the highlight of the Council's winter program proved hugely popular.

It was Barry's first-ever ice rink, located adjacent to the Town Hall, and many skating sessions sold out, far surpassing organisers' expectations.

Gates opened at Ice Central on Saturday, November 25 after the festive illuminations came to life in King Square.

It remained there until last Sunday, offering seasonal food, drinks, live music and a family-friendly skating experience.

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration and education, said: "A lot of work went on behind the scenes at Ice Central. We

are delighted that effort has paid off and the event proved such a resounding success. Barry got its first-ever ice rink and Vale residents really responded to it, the whole of King Square area was buzzing. We will now explore the possibility of making Ice Central even bigger and better next year."

John Davies, director of operations for rink suppliers 11th-hour Events, said: "I feel for a first real ice rink in Barry this has far surpassed our expectations. Needless to say we consider Barry to be a huge success."

"We were pretty much sold out on all evening and weekend sessions. All our staff worked incredibly hard to process the bookings and tickets, exchange skates and shoes, and also to maintain the ice surface for skaters to enjoy."

"Many people returned and returned and we soon got to know our regular customers. We thank them for their support and for making the event such a success. We feel that Ice Central has a huge potential to grow and expand."

Nightmare traffic in Llandough

IWORK in Llandough Hospital and sometimes drive in. The amount of traffic at peak times is absolutely awful.

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Standing in the rain from 3am at Cardiff Airport is a labour of love



ABOVE: Geoff and grand-daughter Olivia meet a Chuckle Brother at the ceremony.

A WIDOWER who promised his wife that he would carry on her volunteering work for a Penarth hospice has been recognised for his dedication to the cause.

Geoff Mortimer lost his wife Jenny to cancer eight years ago and before she died, he

promised Jenny he would continue the work she had done as part of the Marie Curie Llantwit Major fundraising group. Since then, he has jumped at the chance of fundraising anywhere in the area – even at Cardiff Airport in the early hours of the morning.

Geoff's dedication has now been marked with a Peacock

Award for Fundraising Volunteer of the Year for his hard work.

Geoff, who has lost eight stone and stopped drinking alcohol at home since he began volunteering, said: "I was very humbled actually. I thoroughly enjoyed being at the awards evening and the round of applause I got was unbelievable."

"A number of people came up to me after the award presentation asking me how I did it, and wanted to clone me! But I do 25 to 30 hours a week, because I can. If someone can do two hours a week, then we say "thank you, that's great". I have got so much time on my hands to be able to do these things, and I enjoy myself. My family were very proud."

Geoff struggled after Jenny died and received counselling at the hospice, which he found extremely helpful. Volunteering for the charity, Geoff began as a collector, which gave him a new lease of life and as time passed by, his confidence grew. He then became a patient feedback volunteer.

Sharing the secrets of his success at raising more than £20,000 so far this year – and around £50,000 in total over seven years – Geoff said: "It's not the money that's important, but the fact that the funds raised this year can provide 1,000 hours of nursing care."

"I dress in anything to help."

yellow from top to bottom, including my underwear and socks. I collect up at Cardiff Airport in departures, and have collected £8,000 there," he said. "One guy said he had to come and give me something for being there at three in the morning dressed like that – and he put a tenner in the bucket. I'm there from 3am to 2pm."

"If I see a family of two kids and two adults, I'll wave at the kids first. If they wave back, I'll put my hand up to do a high five and they will come running over. Then the parents come over because they want to see what's going on, and I'll get some money in the bucket."

Geoff, who volunteers between 25 and 30 hours a week, said: "I just thoroughly enjoy myself, it's not a chore for me, I just love to get out to talking to people, the spin-off then is the money I have raised. I just throw everything at it. It's amazing how I manage, my calendar is all over the place and I don't double book things."

Community fundraiser Georgina Burke, who nominated Geoff, said: "Geoff is someone who will always respond with a "yes please" if asked to do a daffodil collection in the cold and rain! "Geoff is passionate about the vision of Marie Curie – a better life for people and their families living with a terminal illness, and demonstrates this in how he speaks to supporters and patients."

"Having had the excellent care first hand, he understands what a difficult time it can be for families and will do anything to help."

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Out & About with The GEM

What's on and where?

WI craft fayre

PENLLYN and District WI hold their Christmas Craft Fayre in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge, on December 6; doors open at 10am.

Gifts, cakes, jewellery, raffles, Christmas decorations and refreshments available throughout the day.

Valeways walks

ON Saturday, December 10, at 10.30am, 'Nature Reserve, Coastal Path and Pier' (seven miles), starting at Cosmeston Country Park outside the cafe.

On Sunday, December 11 at 2.30pm, 'A Christmas Cracker', starting outside Turner House Gallery, Penarth.

On Tuesday, December 13 at 1.30pm, 'Wind and Water', starting at the Old Harbour car park, Barry Island.

On Wednesday, December 14 at 10.30am, Barry Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap.

Also on December 14 at 2.30pm, the Cowbridge Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the Physic Garden fountain.

History talk

A TALK will be given at the Penarth Local History Society tonight (Thursday, December 8) by Ron Powell on 'Lincoln to Tokyo - 32 Years In the RAF'.

There is a change of venue for this talk only: it

Cantemus Choir's Tenovus concert

JOIN Cantemus as we return for our annual Christmas charity gala at Llandaff Cathedral on Saturday, December 17, at 7.30pm!

In aid of Tenovus Cancer Care, this is the perfect way to get in the mood for Christmas, with carols, drums, and a brass band, plus readings from Leona Vaughan of the hit comedy show *Stella* and CBBC's *Wolfblood*.

With singing that's been described as "thrilling", "incisive" and "vivacious", Cantemus is regarded as one of the leading choirs in the country.

Under the baton of our music director Huw Williams, director of music at Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, St James' Palace, we will

perform a selection of beautiful Christmas pieces; some well-known, plus a few surprises. The programme will include items from our well-received Christmas CD, *Nativity*, which has featured widely on Classic FM and BBC Radio 3.

Joining us will be the Barry 'Sing with Us Choir', who'll be raising the roof with yet more festive favourites. Their zest for singing – and for life – is infectious!

Don't miss what promises to be a fantastic evening. Book your tickets now at www.ticketsource.co.uk/cantemus-chamber-choir or via the Ticketsource telephone box office on 0333 666 3366 (£1.50 fee for telephone bookings).

ELENA RHISIART

will be held in All Saints' main hall, Penarth (next to the Lesser Hall). All welcome, it begins at 7.30pm.

Library Friends

THE Friends of Penarth Library are feeling festive and are holding a Christmas cake sale on Saturday, December 10, from 10am to 12 noon at Penarth Library. Please come along and support your local library.

AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will hold a surgery in Dinas Powys on Saturday, December 10 between 10am – 11am at Murchfield Hall, Sunnycroft Lane (CF64 4QQ).

No appointment necessary.

Dyfan Councillors' surgery

DYFAN Councillors Anthony Powell and Claire Curtis will hold their monthly councillors' advice surgery on Saturday, December 10 at Highlight Park Community Centre from 10am to 11am.

No appointment is necessary.

Remembering loved ones

THE minister and members are inviting local people to a special Service of Remembering on Sunday, December 11 at 3pm in Saint David's Methodist Church, Winston Road, Barry.

Rev Peter Taylor said: "The short service will be quiet and reflective, giving an opportunity to recall, honour and give thanks for loved ones who have died; while holding those who mourn in the love and strength of God. We know that Christmas can bring many memories and emotions for those who mourn."

The service will include the reading out of the names of those who have died (in church and community) during the past two years, and whose funerals have been conducted by Methodist ministers in the Barry section of the Vale Methodist circuit.

Names of those who have died in other years can also be read out.

For more information, contact Rev Peter Taylor on 01446 406262; or revpete@live.co.uk.

Carols at Lavernock

THE former St Lawrence Church at Fort Road, Lavernock will host a candlelit hour of carols, readings and poems at 3 pm on Sunday, December 11.

There will be a warm welcome for all who attend. The service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Marconi Inn across the road.

Free parking on the left of Fort Road just before the church; enquiries to Rev Margaret Stark on 029 20701303.

Author's book signing

JOIN the Griffin Books team for an afternoon of Murder, Mistletoe and Mince Pies on Tuesday, December 13 at All Saints' Church in Penarth.

Crime writer Belinda Bauer, whose 2014 Cardiff-set novel *Rubberneck* won the Theakston's Crime Novel of the Year award, will be discussing her latest book *The Beautiful Dead* and answering questions.

Tickets £10 each include seasonal refreshments and a discount on book purchases. Doors open at 2pm for a 2.30pm start; call 02920 706455 to reserve your place.

Tenovus Lovelight Service

LLANTWIT Major Friends of Tenovus will hold their annual Lovelight Service on Tuesday, December 13 at 7.30pm at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major.

A spokeswoman said: "This service presents an opportunity to give thanks for our loved ones: we light a candle in love, honour or in memory of someone we love; celebrate a new life, ask for a blessing, give thanks for a healing."

"We have been holding this service for over 25 years with tremendous support from the community; we look forward to seeing you all."

"Join us in listening to St Illtud's Primary School choir, enjoy mulled wine and mince pies."

Big Screen

BIG Screen's next film this season is *Our Kind of Traitor* (Cert 15) on Thursday, December 15, at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

Perry and girlfriend Gail are caught between the Russian Mafia and the British Secret Service in this film, written by John Le Carré, with a cast that includes Ewan McGregor, Naomie Harris and Damian Lewis.

Doors open 7.10pm, tickets £4 available in advance from the town clerk's office or on the door.

Sale in Dinas Powys

DINAS Powys Voluntary Concern (DPVC) are holding a table top sale on Saturday, December 17 at Murchfield Community Centre from 10am to 2pm.

A variety of crafts from White Gecko, books from Clumsy Rabbit and gifts from Neal's Yard will be on sale as well as handmade products and bric-a-brac.

Pick up those last-minute Christmas presents and at the same time help DPVC's Minibus Appeal fund. Hot chocolate, mulled wine and mince pies will keep you warm while you browse.

Christmas services

at Merthyr Dyfan

CHRISTMAS Eve: 2.30pm carol service with Christmas at Merthyr Dyfan parish church.

At 8pm the first Mass of Christmas at St Paul's hall, St Paul's Avenue.

Christmas Day: 8.45am sung Mass at Merthyr Dyfan parish church; 10.15am sung Mass at St Paul's hall, St Paul's Avenue.

All set for village Christmas market

START your

Christmas at the Village Market's annual Christmas market and craft fair on Saturday, December 10 from 10am – 2pm in Peterston-super-Ely Church and Community Hall.

Entrance is free and you are sure to find something to interest you.

A spokeswoman said: "We have a fabulous range of craft stalls booked. As well as all our usual homemade cakes and produce, there is an expanded range of jams, jellies, chutneys and edible Christmas wares."

"We have a plant stall

and a stall selling fresh Christmas decorations made by members of the Flower and Garden Club."

"There are activities to entertain the children and a lucky dip bran tub. Entertainment is provided by our primary school choir, St Peter's Handbell Ringers, followed by carol singing with our choir to get us in the festive mood, along with mince pies, mulled wine, homemade soup and hot turkey rolls."

All profits are donated to the hall towards its upkeep and further improvements.

Contact Pat Cadwalladr on 01446 760267 for any further details.

Mayor's invitation

BARRY Town Mayor, Coun Charlotte Williams, will be holding a Christmas coffee morning at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, on Monday, December 19 at 10am to 12pm to raise money for her three charities.

To book a stall selling festive items, or for more information, contact info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk or telephone 01446 738663.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D959.

● £2,000: 936003.

● The rollover, which now stands at £7,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 308180, 276443, 711428, 283821, 599616, 490862, 801720, 535641, 603477, 665878, 973829, 277616, 423750, 284013, 729322, 309949, 699839, 202334, 100400, 1142120, 005526.

● £5: 659162, 737793, 159807, 366711, 167089, 489558, 872756, 643304, 870435, 382219, 726702, 724414, 574915, 171761, 398711, 371084, 307416, 393789, 908320, 391938, 803378, 552371, 108391, 798223, 775898, 196454, 644628, 476858, 482605, 188124, 166025, 215338, 870462, 492740, 617879, 495715, 524293, 919805, 802409, 201094, 243400, 839140, 734665, 880823, 102511, 737193, 667583, 103140, 485218, 151233, 161989, 800290, 898068, 123008, 484650, 536226, 295247, 862940, 001350.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

THE following are

winning numbers in the

Ty Hafan

Crackerjackpot

lottery draw

number D960.

● £2,000: 309183.

● The rollover,

which now stands at

£9,000, was not won this

week.

● £10: 602944,

451964, 398203, 674894,

740702, 846478, 100615,

847264, 455852, 547743,

379013, 863528, 431188,

861069, 124772, 779891,

400037, 701513, 271555,

1142120.

● £5: 522534,

211905, 466110, 884907,

642146, 467957, 979410,

266842, 170921, 355017,

For lottery information

please telephone 029

2053 2300.

Christmas fair for Dogs Trust

STAFF at Dogs Trust

Bridgend are

preparing for the

arrival of 'Santa

Paws' ahead of its

annual Christmas fair

on Sunday, December

11, and are

encouraging local

people to come along

and join in the

festive fun.

Taking place at the

Court Colman Hotel

(11am – 3pm) the annual

event promises to be a

great day out for all the

family, with four-legged

friends invited to join in

the fun too!

Highlights of the day

include a grand raffle,

tombola and craft stalls.

Guests will also have the

chance to do some

Christmas shopping for

the two and four-legged

family members with

stalls selling stocking fillers, gifts, treats, Dogs Trust merchandise and Christmas cards.

Christmas-themed refreshments will also be available and visitors will have the chance to meet Santa 'Paws'.

Dogs Trust Bridgend supporter relations officer, Rhianon Chamberlain said: "Our

Christmas fair is always a wonderful occasion.

This year promises to be a fantastic day out for all the family – including the pooches!

"All the money raised will go directly to caring for the dogs in our care so it's a wonderful way to raise pounds for homeless hounds while getting into the Christmas spirit."

Community Choir Christmas concert

BARRY Community Choir is holding a Christmas songs and carols concert at Crossways Church, Barry, on Saturday, December 10 (3pm).

For more information, go to www.barrycommunitychoir.com or call 01446 748724.

Gwasanaeth Nadolig

Yn cael ei gynnal yn

Amlosgfa Llangrallo

ar nos Iau 15fed Rhagfyr 2016

am 7.00pm

Yr Enghreifftiau: Stephen C Pore - Abercraf, Llangrallo a Becton

Cyhoeddus

Lewis Merthyr

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at 7.00pm

Led by: Revd Stephen C Pore - Parish of Llangrallo, Becton & Abercraf

Featuring: Lewis Merthyr Band

CHOR A NDYR PRIS ABERCRAF YN CAEL EU GWYBODA O CHOMEDD Y GWASANAETH

All are Welcome



Porthcawl Minister's faith led to a fascinating life

OBITUARY – Paul Floe (1950–2016)

THE sudden death last month of the Rev Paul Floe shocked people in Porthcawl and many other communities.

He had been the Minister in Trinity Church, Porthcawl, since 2001, and had retired only last year to Carmarthenshire.

His funeral took place in Trinity Church, and the congregation reflected on the many communities that he had touched.

From his earliest days growing up in Tiger Bay, he loved rugby, and took that enthusiasm with him throughout his ministry, wherever he was called.

A measure of this is the fact that 50 members of Lincoln Rugby Club attended the funeral in Porthcawl. Paul's ministry had taken him to Lincoln from 1987 until 2001, and he was highly regarded at the club.

So much so, in fact, that there was a memorial service in Lincoln, and another 20 Lincoln RFC members, who had been unable to get to Porthcawl on the day, joined members of Paul's congregation to pay tribute.

The GEM is grateful to Paul's family for the following tribute:

Paul was born on March 12, 1950 – a fifties child, as he was fond of saying.

He lived with his parents, Doreen and Pauline Floe in Tiger Bay, along with his two elder sisters, Doreen and Eva. Six years later they were joined by another sister, Joy. Life was hard but there was always love in the house.

The community was close and everyone knew everyone. Paul's claim to fame was that Shirley Bassey pushed him in his pram. He would often recall going to 'the Mission' to Sunday School.

When Paul was five the family moved to Ely. A near neighbour was the captain of the Boys' Brigade at Grand Avenue Congregational Church and Paul was 'invited' to join – to stop him becoming a juvenile delinquent.

This was his introduction to a new family – the church family. He began to attend Sunday services and became involved in youth club.

Here he met Jean, the start of a long and loving relationship. He also met the woman who was

to become his mother-in-law with the infamous statement: "So you must be Mrs Overup!" but he was soon accepted into the Underdown family, even taking over the coveted Saturday job as Co-op delivery boy, (complete with Granville-type bike!) from Jean's brother, Keith.

The minister at the time was Mary Evans, the person who would have a huge influence on Paul's spiritual life.

Paul did not enjoy school, except for rugby, and left at 15 to start an apprenticeship, later qualifying as a ship fitter/turner and he worked in Cardiff and Barry Dock.

He played rugby for St Joseph's, a Catholic club made up of boys of many different backgrounds. While Jean was away at college, Paul embarked on a course of study with the aim of entering the ministry. Late one evening, he was returning from Mary's house on his bicycle when he was stopped by the local bobby and asked what was in his bag.

His answer of a Bible and other books was not believed until he opened his bag.

Paul and Jean were married at Grand Avenue on August 14, 1971 and set up home in Barry. A year later in 1972, full of trepidation, they said goodbye to their families in Wales when Paul began studying in the Northern Congregational College, Manchester.

While there he played rugby for Broughton Park.

In 1976, Paul was ordained and they settled into the Wellingborough group of URCS. In October Matthew was born. Very soon he acquired two boy cousins with whom he spent a lot of time.

The family connections continued as Mary Evans baptised Matthew, and Paul baptised his cousin Peter at Wellingborough on Easter Sunday 1977. Peter was looking forward to Paul being able to take part in his wedding next year.

Paul, of course, played rugby for the town.

Then in 1983 they were called to the very different challenge of Kingston, Jamaica. The warmth of the weather was matched by the warmth of the members of St John's United Church. Jamaica was full of wonderful people, enduring difficult circumstances.

Paul and Jean took one family under their wing. The Hayden boys became, and remain, part of the family.

Paul played rugby once there too, it was an international, Jamaica v Grand Cayman!

The family returned in 1986 and stayed in Cheltenham for 10 months, Matthew having great fun having a brother and two sisters for a while. Paul helped at St Andrew's URC while their minister was ill and made his presence felt as always.

Paul managed to find a rugby club here too. In November they moved to Lincoln. This was an appointment that shared the ministry at Ermine URC with being college chaplain and part of the student services counselling team, as well as shared prison chaplaincy.

It was important to Paul and Jean that Matthew could have a settled education and they remained in Lincoln until Matthew completed school and college.

Paul played rugby for the city team, had the privilege to be voted chairman and then president, and since had been made a life member.

Keith Younger, who played alongside Paul in Lincoln, told The GEM: "Paul was 37 when he arrived, and captained the third team from fly-half."

"I believe that in his 20s, centre was his best position, and he played the game with passion and didn't take a backward step."

"He used to say: 'For six-and-a-half days of the week, I'm a churchman, but on Saturday afternoon I'm a rugby player'."

In 2001 Paul, Jean and Matthew came home to Wales, when Paul was called to share the ministry of Trinity Methodist and United Reformed Church and to the Bridgend United Area. Initially this appointment was for seven years, but they stayed until Paul retired last year. Paul was proud to act as mentor to Branwen as she progressed towards ordination.

Paul visited Malawi for three months in 1999 and again for two months in 2009. He used his experience there to inspire his congregations to support his aim of helping the church in Malawi build its own worship place.

In 2012, Matthew and Nia were married at Trinity. A year later it was Paul's privilege to

baptise Arthur and two years after that, Lili arrived to complete the family. Pops had arrived!

Now Paul was too old to play rugby so instead served as chaplain to Porthcawl Rugby Club.

He was proud to be a founder member of Grumpy Old Men and an

enthusiastic allotment holder. He bravely took part in the Christmas Day swim to raise money for Christian Aid 11 times until the congregation decided to sponsor him NOT to swim.

Paul was proud of his Seychellois roots and in April this year, Paul and

Jean fulfilled his ambition of visiting the Seychelles. Paul loved the warmth, of the land and the people, and hoped to return, perhaps using the Seychellois passport that he was entitled to.

They were thrilled to meet up with some family members and

hoped to find out more about his father's family in the future.

Paul was just settling in to his new life at Haulwen Lodge and was investigating buying a mini-tractor to be his new toy. He hadn't become an apiarist but he did become an arsonist – setting fire to

the field one day.

Husband, father, Pops, brother, uncle, son-in-law, minister, mentor, counsellor, colleague, team-mate, Grumpy Old Man, gardener, friend – however you knew Paul, he will be impossible to forget.

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SANTA CLAUS MAKES AN EARLY CALL AT SANDVILLE!

SANTA found time to make an early call at the Sandville Self Help Centre at Tŷn Kenfig, not only to open the Christmas table-top sale, but also to meet children in his grotto.

Being a multi-tasking gentleman, this year he also has a grotto at 'Woodcraft 82' in Pyle. Here Santa has loads of specially selected presents to hand out to children of all ages, courtesy of Martin Jones of Woodcraft 82, who is generously donating the proceeds of the event to the Sandville Self Help Centre.

**Report and photos by
KEITH E MORGAN.**



Santa meeting Sister Gwyneth Poacher and Martin Jones in his other Sandville Grotto at Woodcraft 82 Pyle.



A family affair; Lily-Grace, Teigan and Zac with Duke of Edinburgh student Sam Keane in the background.



Young Jac and Faith were thrilled that Santa is going to turn up trumps with their Christmas presents this year.



Lily-Grace giving Santa a big kiss.



I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus!

Conservative AM's call on business rates revaluation

AM FOR South Wales West, Suzy Davies, is urging businesses in Bridgend county borough to contact her if they are being adversely affected by the business rates revaluation which has taken place.

Mrs Davies, a Welsh Conservative AM, said: "Labour has failed to deliver on a manifesto pledge to cut business rates. Small and medium sized businesses were promised during the election that business rates would be abolished for them. But they've stuck with exactly the same system as before the election - Where's the change?"

"A more realistic system of business rates relief has become urgent as many shops and other small firms have seen their rateable values rise because of rates revaluation.

"Many small businesses may not survive this double whammy. While

revaluation is down to an independent body and not Welsh Government, the ability to help those who could be wiped out by the revaluation is a matter for Carwyn Jones.

"Responsibility for business rates devolved to Wales over a year ago but Welsh Government has not used its new powers to help small and medium sized businesses which are the lifeblood of the Welsh economy.

"Welsh Conservatives want business rates abolished for firms with an RV of less than £12K. The rates revaluation has had a devastating impact on many businesses and it's clear that many will go under unless help is forthcoming. The Welsh Government is guilty of failing to prepare properly for the impact of rates revaluation."

Mrs Davies said that pressure from opposition parties during a Welsh Conservative debate meant that Mark Drakeford, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, signalled that he might be persuaded to move on this issue.

New Coastal path section is safer and easier to walk

A SECTION of the Wales coastal path near Llantwit Major has been upgraded and is now officially open.

Coun Gwyn John, Vale Council colleagues, and a representative of Natural Resources Wales were in Llantwit Major this week to sign off completion of the latest section of the Wales Coastal Path to be upgraded.

Work to the path at Dimhole, west of Llantwit Major Beach, was completed in October following a £33,500 investment.

The path, which was previously

uneven and ran alongside a high cliff edge, has been set back to a safe distance and its surface improved.

Coun John said: "With some of the nation's finest coastline here in the Vale, the council is determined to enable more people to experience it.

"The new route and surface will open up this section of the coastal path to more people than ever and



A new section of the Wales Coastal Path is ready to welcome walkers.

allow both residents and visitors of all ages and abilities to walk one of the nicest sections of the Heritage Coast."

The Wales Coastal Path has proved popular with visitors since opening in 2012 and the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales work in partnership to improve and maintain it.

Cards for Good Causes will boost Diabetes UK

DIABETES UK Cymru wants local people to know that it isn't too late to stock up on Christmas cards and help a whole range of charities at the local Cards for Good Causes shop.

The cards will be on sale at the pop-up store in Cowbridge's Community College until December 17 from 10am to 5pm on Monday to Saturday. At least 70p of every pound spent on cards in the shops will be given directly to the charity.

Cards for Good Causes now manages over 300 shops around the UK in the run-up to Christmas in vacant shop units as well as in churches, libraries and other public spaces. In the past 10 years, charities have received more than £40 million from Cards for Good Causes.

Diabetes UK Cymru's Director Dai Williams, said: "There is a huge range of cards available this year whatever your tastes, and buying cards is an easy way to support Diabetes UK this Christmas. If you want to support a charity by buying Christmas cards, buying direct is the best option. After administrative costs there are no hidden charges so all the money goes to the

charity and Diabetes UK gets the most benefit from your purchase.

"Money you raise will help us to fund vital research into diabetes, campaign on key issues, and support even more of the four and a half million people in the UK who are living with the condition. If you buy your charity cards from commercial shops, do check what percentage they will be passing on to the charity."

Ogmore MP backs Dogs Trust campaign

THIS week Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity, invited a host of MPs and peers to celebrate its 125th anniversary at its annual House of Commons reception attended by Chris Elmore, Labour MP for Ogmore.

Chris Elmore said: "I am very pleased to support Dogs Trust in raising awareness of the current issues facing the nation's dogs. Dog welfare is something I feel very strongly about.

"I commend the incredible effort Dogs Trust has gone to in a bid to improve the lives of dogs across the country over the past 125 years. I pledge to help do my bit to drive change for dogs over the next 12 months and beyond."

Adrian Burder, Dogs Trust CEO, added: "Over the coming 12 months, one of the main focuses for Dogs Trust will be the issue of irresponsible breeding. There is currently little to no enforcement on the breeding and sale of dogs in the UK and this is something which needs to change."

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SANTA AND HIS REINDEER ARRIVE IN PORTHCAWL FOR A FESTIVE SUNDAY!

PORTHCAWL Town Council and local volunteers made special arrangements this year for the 'Magic Reindeer Sledge' to make a call at Porthcawl.

Following the sledge's arrival at Santa's temporary reindeer stables in South Road, courtesy of Fulgoni's Restaurant, the cavalcade assembled with Santa Claus and Mother Christmas surrounded by elves, PCSOs, the Mayor and Mayoress of Porthcawl, Coun Rob and Mrs Ann Lee, the Town Crier, Coun David Newton-Williams, the Pantomime Dame who turned up dressed in her Sunday best, and many other willing helpers.

Once reindeer master Martin Flint from 'Little Lapland' in Market Harborough had hitched up the reindeer, Mösti and Stig, they were eager to go and were off. Given their head there was no stopping them.

As Santa would tell you, his reindeer are trained to be fast as they are programmed to travel long distances at Christmas. Mösti and Stig sped off down John Street way in front of the rest of the cavalcade, to the cheers of the crowds gathered to greet them.

The children had a field day with the Mayor, Mayoress, PCSOs and Elves all giving out presents to each child courtesy of the town council.

In no time at all, reindeer and sledge were speeding down Well Street and up the short stretch of Mary Street into the car park behind the museum to a welcome from an even bigger crowd of sightseers.

The car park had been turned into a fair ground, decorated for Christmas with stalls selling food and gifts, and all sorts of entertainment on hand including an ice rink, a bucking buffalo, trampolines and a life size 'Snow Dome'.

Mösti and Stig headed straight for their temporary stable. The reindeer had done their bit and it was now up to Santa Claus and Mother Christmas to take Christmas present orders from all the children waiting there to climb up onto the sledge with them.

REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH E MORGAN



ABOVE: The bucking buffalo.

BELOW: The snow dome.



LEFT: The reindeer passing through John Street.

RIGHT: Mr and Mrs Claus – and a snow machine!



ABOVE: The St John Ambulance were on hand during the day.



RUGBY CELEBS OUT IN FORCE TO HELP BARRY COMPREHENSIVE

BARRY Comprehensive School's under-14 rugby team set themselves the challenge of pedalling the distance from Barry to Barcelona to raise funds for their rugby tour to Spain.

Thirty-five boys from the school pedalled the 765 miles on 10 exercise bikes outside the Holiday Inn, Cardiff as crowds flocked past to watch the Wales v South Africa game on Saturday, November 26.

The event was given a massive boost by the appearance of a host of special guests and celebrities. Former Wales and Lions backrow Martyn Williams started the challenge and joined in with the pedalling.

During the five hours the challenge took to complete, former Welsh Internationals Nigel Davies, Jason Strange and Rhys Williams, as well as TV celebrities John Inverdale and Rick O'Shea generously gave their support.

The highlight of the day for the boys was the appearance of former world rugby Player of the Year, Shane Williams, who posed for photos and took a turn on a bike.

Mr Manley, event organiser from Barry Comprehensive School, said: "I'd like to thank all of the rugby players and celebrities, as well as the students, their parents and school colleagues who gave up their time to help us raise money for our rugby tour to Barcelona.

"Special thanks must go to CJCH Solicitors for kindly sponsoring our t-shirts and to Mr Richard Platts, manager of the Holiday Inn, Cardiff for allowing us to hold the event outside the hotel and for all of his hospitality during the day.

"As a group we have completed many fund raising events for the tour and we would be delighted if any local companies would like to help us with sponsorship or support; please contact Mr David Manley at the school."



LEFT: Barry Comprehensive School's under-14 rugby team, are pictured 'pedalling to Barcelona' at the Holiday Inn, Cardiff.

BELOW: Sports pundit and TV celebrity John Inverdale.



ABOVE: Former Welsh International Jason Strange.



Thumbs up all the way! Former World Player of the Year and entertainer Shane Williams.

RIGHT: Former Welsh International Rhys Williams.



BELOW: TV celebrity and rugby presenter Rick O'Shea.



ABOVE: Former Wales and Lions backrow Martyn Williams started the challenge.

Maesteg town gets ready for Christmas with a parade, Santa, festive lights and fireworks

THE organisers of Maesteg's Christmas Parade are saying that this year's parade attracted the biggest attendance ever – with an estimated 3,000 families lining the streets.

Floats were dressed by many local organisations and businesses.

As well as the parade and fireworks, there was a craft fayre in the town hall, an outdoor

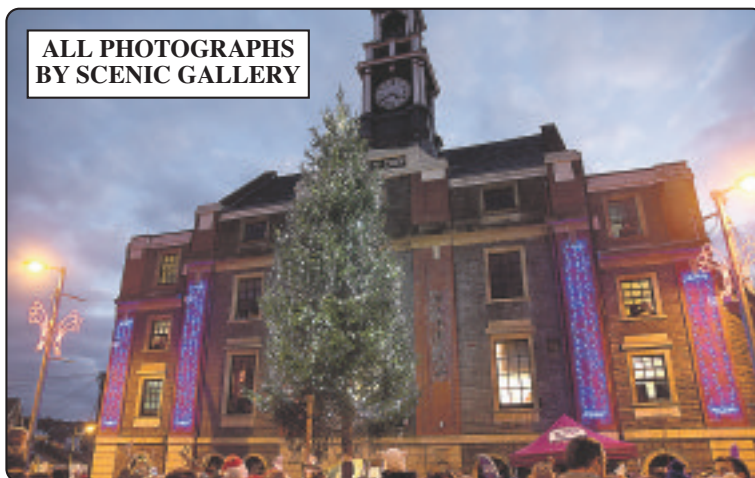
carol service, and Christmas huts in the market.

Pictured (below) with town Mayor Coun Jen Terry, is Lucas Jordan, aged 10, a pupil at St Mary's and St Patrick's Primary School, who took first prize in the 'design a Christmas poster' competition for schools.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS
BY SCENIC GALLERY



The firework display started as night fell.



ABOVE: A Christmas tree and lights on the town hall.



ABOVE: Santa arrives in the town centre.



The carol service was well attended.



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH PARK CRESCENT

From Demon Barbers to BLush, Bella Donne Gallesi and Cutting It by Sue – Park Crescent leads in hair and beauty!

OVER the last month, The GEM has highlighted all that's best in local shopping areas across the Vale and Bridgend.

What they all have in common is hardworking, committed business people, often running family concerns.

Park Crescent is blessed with a wide range of businesses and one strong theme is its excellent hairdressing and beauty businesses.

The Demon Barbers, at 124 Park Crescent has a really good atmosphere with great banter. On the day The GEM popped in to see Steve and the team they were doing a roaring trade.

The Demon Barbers is open six days a week and do special deals for senior

citizens. On Friday, senior citizens have a special discount from 9am until 3pm.

They are open from 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday and 9am to 4.30pm on Saturday.

All the hairdressers are 'time served' and the business is a member of the National Hairdressers Association. To book an appointment, call 01446 421300.

Steven told The GEM: "On Christmas Eve, we will be open until 12 noon."

"We'd like to wish all our customers a very 'Happy Christmas and Prosperous 2017'."

There are also shops dedicated to the very best in beauty and hairdressing for local ladies.

The exotically named **Belle Donne Gallesi**, run

by Jenny Thomas at 116c Park Crescent, is a stylish, unisex hair salon.

Cutting It by Sue is based at 116b Park Crescent provides all sorts of hair styling and colouring. Ladies, men and children are welcome.

On the day The GEM visited the ladies were in full flow with a packed salon of loyal customers enjoying the friendly atmosphere – as good an endorsement of a business as you could wish for.

Need a hair-do for a special occasion, just call 01446 722633. But appointments are not always necessary, and the ladies will always fit you in.

And at the time of 'goodwill to all men', the staff at 'Cutting It by Sue' said they wanted to thank

local council worker Mike Weeks for the fantastic job he does in keeping Park Crescent spick and span.

Holly at **BLush Beauty Boutique** has developed a great reputation for delivering top beauty treatments. And yes, BLush, is correctly spelt. Get it?

Don't take The GEM's word for it, on Facebook, satisfied client Sophia comments:

"I had my beautiful Christmas gel nails done with Holly today, along with my waxing. A first class service with a smile and such a relaxing environment. Thank you BLush."

Two of the most popular beauty treatments are 'Moroccan Tan with Argan Oil', and 'CND Shellac', striking nail polish in a host of colours.

Holly said: "We have late nights until 9pm, if required, in the lead-up to Christmas. We won't be open on Christmas Eve, but will re-open on December 29 and 30, and then be back to normal on Tuesday, December 3."

"In January, we will be relaunching the website and there will be more fantastic offers."

If you go to BLush on Facebook, you can see some of Holly's great work in exotic nails and terrific teeth whitening!

So if you want to look your best for that Christmas party or on Christmas Day itself, remember Park Crescent means the best in hair dressing and beauty treatments.

Tulip Bridal's winter fayre this Saturday

TULIP Bridal Wear & Wedding Photography, at 6 St Nicholas Road, sells every sort of wedding gown and accessory you could possibly wish for.

This Saturday, December 10, the popular wedding boutique is hosting a winter fayre and special raffle.

A spokeswoman explained: "Two members of Tulip Bridal, Kim and Jemma have made a Christmas tree dress and we decided to auction the dress for Ty Hafan."

"On Saturday, between 1pm and 4pm we will be holding a winter fayre and raffle at Tulip."



"We have Christmas stalls, Indian spices and make up and nails."

"Santa Claus will also be making an appearance. The Grotto will be open between 2pm-3pm."

"Our special guest is world boxing champion Lee Selby who will draw the raffle. Prizes have been donated by local businesses."

Belle Donne Gallesi run by Jenny Thomas at 116c Park Crescent, is a stylish, unisex hair salon.



'BLush' – Holly and the staff provide a huge range of beauty treatments at 12 Park Crescent, Barry.

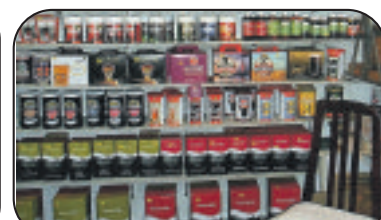


Need a hair-do for that Christmas Party? Then call Cutting It by Sue on 01446 722633. Appointments are not always necessary, so feel free to drop in.



Florantina Florists delivers quality bouquets and arrangements locally – or pop in and pick one up for a loved one.

All the staff at Demon Barbers, 124 Park Crescent, would like to wish their clients a 'Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year'.



At the Home Brew Centre a wine starter kit begins at £15.50, and a bottle can work out at just £1.50.



Harvey's Fish 'n' Chips in Vale Street provides the great British takeaway!

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CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH PARK CRESCENT

SPECIALISTS PROVIDE THE 'SPICE OF LIFE'

SPECIALIST businesses are at the heart of Park Crescent. They provide more in depth products and services than supermarkets and many chain retailers.

The Home Brew Centre, at 2 Park Crescent, is a real family affair, and started off as a hobby.

The owner Pamela explained: "It was started by my husband Howard (who passed away two and a half years ago). He started it 26 years ago, after he retired from BT. It was a personal interest before it was a business.

"We sell first class home brew kits for wine and beer. Once people start doing it, it becomes a real hobby."

For wine, a starter kits begin at £15.50, and a bottle can work out at just £1.50.

It's a real family business. Pamela continues Howard's legacy with help from her son and grandson. She said: "We've got a really loyal clientele."

AA Dancewear owned by Anne Taylor is a long-established business on the crescent – over 20 years.

Anne said: "We're the longest established dance shop in Wales. From budding ballerinas to professional level we are a one stop shop for all people's dancewear needs. We are pointe shoe fitters with 20 years of experience.

"We have the most extensive range of dancewear, gym and aerobic wear in the region, and are proud of our old fashioned values – excellent customer care and high quality products at affordable prices."

Among the many dance labels stocked are Arabesque, Bloch, Bunheads, Freed, Grisko, Tappers and Pointers, Pineapple and Roch Valley & Zone. Call Anne to check on stock on 01446 721188.

My Favourite Pet Shop run by Alison Moya offers a range of pet products that no supermarket could ever match. What comes across is the staff's enthusiasm for what they have on offer.

Sophie explained: "For Christmas we've got doggy and cat hampers which include treats, a toy, a collar or a bow."

These would make a great present for the doting dog or cat lover.

Alison added: "We are a dog boutique, providing best prices, and specialise in items for small animals such as tiny collars and leads.

"We've got a huge choice in doggy play pens, puppy slings, a lovely selection of beds, dog training puzzles and Eden dog food."

And Alison's salon next door (open Monday to

Saturday) will pamper and groom your dog too. Phone Chic and Sleek Grooming Salon on 01446 744633 for an appointment.

My Favourite Pet Shop closes at 2pm on Christmas Eve, but opens the following Wednesday.

Barry Angling Centre has been open for over 30 years on the knowledgeable stewardship of Gerald.

It stocks every possible product needed by the keen angler and Gerald trades seven days a week – even open until 12 noon on Sunday.

Popular products at this time of the year are his range of wellies and waterproofs, to keep the hardy enthusiasts as insulated as possible in the more extreme weather conditions.

Florantia Florists is owned by Ann Caesar who is related to the previous owners the Kellaway family.

Florantia specialises in sympathy tributes, and bouquets – whether for birthdays, anniversaries or celebrations. The shop is a dazzling array of colour.

What is the secret of its 27-year success?

It provides quality arrangements and will do same day delivery that can sometimes be ready within an hour.

ALL YOUR VITAL SECURITY NEEDS



BARRY Security Centre is run by Matthew Cullen. If you have a security, lock or key problem, phone him on 01446 740119.

On the day THE GEM visited, Matthew was about to help someone who was locked out of their house. He is well known in Barry and has traded since 2000, first in Broad Street, but for eight years on Park Crescent. Alarm systems, padlocks, night locks, multi-point locks for PVC doors, domestic safes – you name it, Matthew can you help with it.



My Favourite Pet shop is a pet boutique, providing best prices, and it specialises in items for small dogs such as tiny collars and leads.

Everyone is welcome at The Park!

THE Park Hotel on Park Crescent is a relaxing, community pub which is well worth a visit.

It has got a lot of friendly regulars who welcome newcomers seven days a week. There are real ales on tap. People can have a drink and enjoy the sport on TV.

There's a function room which can host christenings, weddings, birthday parties and special events.

There's live music this month: 'Get Ready'



perform on December 21; 'Sugar Time' on December 22; and 'Outback' on December 23.

You can follow The Park on Facebook and Twitter for regular band night dates.

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Russell Charles has been a practicing accountant since 1992 and, in partnership with his wife Katherine, their three offices provide a range of services including tax returns, annual accounts, payroll and bookkeeping.

Both Russell and Katherine were born and brought up in Barry and have lived in Cardiff for more than 30 years. They have been running their own business for more than 24 years and know first-hand the challenges faced by small businesses and tailor their services accordingly.

With its fixed fee policy and flexible payment options, TaxAssist Accountants helps a diverse range of small businesses including sole traders, landlord, limited companies and start-ups in many industries.

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Thursday 22nd December
SUGAR LINE
Friday 23rd December
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Snap-Happy Christmas for photo club competition winners



RIGHT:
The
Reader
by
Richard
Craze.

LEFT:
Sun, Sea
But No
Sand
by
Patricia
Kendrick.

PYLE & Porthcawl Photographic Society held its annual 'Club Competition One' on Thursday, December 1, at the North Cornelly Community Centre.

The competition was split into two sections, print and digital, with a trophy for each, and members could enter two images into each section.

Rob Greenhill skilfully judged both sections of the competition, and not only awarded the points, but also provided an excellent critique on each image.

The winner of the print trophy was Richard Craze for 'The Reader'. In second place was David Jones for 'Hand Rails'. Third place was shared between Richard Craze for 'Ogmore River' and Geoff Baker for both 'Sermon on the Mount' and 'Sunset over Kenfig Pool'.

The winner of the digital trophy was Patricia Kendrick for 'Sun, Sea but no Sand'. Second place was shared between Patricia Kendrick for 'Shifting Sands', Geoff Baker for 'Young Robin' and Richard Craze for 'Iron Works'. In third place was Glyn Edmunds for both 'Sleeping Black Rhino' and 'The Greeting'.

Congratulations to both Patricia and Richard for winning the competitions and a big thank you to all who participated for making it such an interesting and entertaining evening.

RIGHT:
Sunset
over
Kenfig
Pool
by
Geoff
Baker.



**FAR
RIGHT:**
The
Greeting
by Glyn
Edmunds.



RIGHT:
Young
Robin
by
Geoff
Baker.



**Patricia Kendrick,
digital winner.**

**Richard Craze (left), the
print winner.**

Honours even as Bridgend Sports under-11s take on Cambrian RFC

BRIDGEND Sports under-11s welcomed Cambrian to Newbridge Fields on Sunday.

The visitors took the lead a few minutes into the game as the Sports failed to find any rhythm and fell off tackles to allow their opponents to gain the upper hand.

Harvey Hawkins scored the try for Cambrian when he took the ball 10 metres out, spotted a gap in the Sports' defence and accelerated through it to score 10 metres in from touch.

The Sports eventually gathered themselves to apply some pressure on the Cambrian attackers to force a few errors and claim the put-in at a scrum.

They clawed their way up field and into the game just before the end of the first period.

Callum Lewis put Iestyn John into space with a pass and he sprinted down the touchline to score the try for both teams to go into the break 5-5.

In the second period, Cambrian again dominated the early minutes and registered the first score.

Logan Chubb was the beneficiary from some good play as Cambrian moved the ball wide quickly from a ruck. He received the ball, took on several defenders to break through to score.

The Sports then tried to put a few attacks together but good defence from Cambrian kept them out until late on.

Jack Short took the ball upfield from a penalty tap in the Sports' half.

Joel Rogers was on hand to receive a pass and then sprint past the covering defenders to once again bring the scores level at 10-10.

Two further 10-minute periods were played and both sides scored a try in each.

Cambrian edged the third period following an interception on the Sports' try line. It was Evan Rees who seized the ball and fell over the line.

In the final period, the Sports finally put some fluency into their game. An initial breakout of defence from a Cambrian kick was brought to a halt before Jack Short set off on a run.

Meg Lewis maintained the attack, good support play from Callum Lewis and Joel Rogers provided the link to Mackenzie Dent and from a couple of metres out he carried a number of defenders over the line before grounding the ball to make the final score 15-15.

The Blue and Whites have two more games before the Christmas break: one away to Llantwit Major and one home to Ystrad Rhondda. The coaches are looking forward to having a full squad at training before the Christmas break.

Matchday squad: Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins, Cadan Hayes, Callum Lewis, Cian John, Dewi Worrall, Harri Edmunds, Harri Williams, Iestyn John, Ieuan Pilliner, Jack Short, Joel Rogers, Mackenzie Dent, Mason Balmer, Megan Lewis, Richard Kirkup, Theo Clarke, Thomas Chick, Tyler Burton, Tyron Davies, Will Ellis.

UNEXPECTED GUESTS FOR RCT VILLAGE



ON November 26, Olwg in Church 'Tunes R Us' Village performed their Nativity programme for the residents of Garth

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Yes, all of these and more will be at Cowbridge Town Hall on December 16 for the annual pantomime. Fun for all the family; tickets, £5, are available from the Town Clerk's office at the Town Hall, or from David Barnes Cleaners on the High Street. Doors open at 6.30pm and the show starts at 7pm. **PK**

www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

First half domination counts for nothing as Pencoed draw a blank

PENCOED RFC Firsts dominated the opening quarter of this Division Two West Central match at the Recreation Ground, but unfortunately a malfunctioning home lineout meant that they failed to press home their territorial advantage.

This was the story of the first half, territorially on top but unable to create any clear-cut chances.

Indeed, it was the final minute of the first half before the visitors got to the home 22 mark, where a Pencoed offence gave the visitors outside-half Owen Evans the penalty opportunity to open the match scoring.

So, despite the home side having dominated the half in terms of field position, they found themselves 0-3

down at the interval.

The second half was a different story. The visitors, now playing with the breeze, increased their lead early in the half with a try from hooker Nicky Reed, Evans adding the extras.

The middle part of the second half became pretty nondescript until with around 10 minutes left, Resolven got their second try, centre Darren Bowen racing through the midfield to score at the posts. Evans converted for his side to lead 0-17.

Despite home efforts to put width on the ball, they could not break down the visitors' defence and Resolven put the match result beyond any doubt with their third try, blindside wing Jamie Hopkins cutting through mid-field to score at the posts. Evans added his third conversion and a final match scoreline of 0-24.

TR



Rhys Clarke is tackled as he tries to kick.



Tom Swansbury is dragged to the ground by three tacklers.



Pencoed's Christain Powell aims to break clear.
All photos by Julie Hancock.

Llantwit Youth struggle in Bridgend clash

Llantwit Youth v
Bridgend Town Youth

IT was a freezing cold blustery winter's afternoon that saw Bridgend Town add another victory on the road in a list of good results that continues to grow and grow.

Town striker Iestyn Lewis struck first with a quality long-range effort that caught the Llantwit keeper unawares, finding the bottom right corner superbly.

Llantwit were shocked and Town continued to threaten, with Will Prosser and Enyo Catungui moving the ball excellently on the flanks for Town.

Llantwit failed to really threaten with Callum Beddow not required to make any saves.

Iestyn Lewis added a second with another effort from distance after cutting in brilliantly going past two defenders before firing past the Llantwit keeper for the second time in the same half.

Tyler Davies finished the half in terrific style, perfectly placing a free kick in the top-right corner to make it 3-0 to the visitors.

After the break Llantwit tried and failed to make any real comeback, Lewis Brown bundling in a scrappy goal it has to be said from a corner.

Bridgend made sure of the victory late on when Liam Jones added a fourth in some style after Bridgend successfully stopped a Llantwit counter.

Drew Murray played a big part which saw Jones pick up his first goal of the season.

Bridgend will be pleased with their performance, picking up all three points on the road in what was a real professional performance.

Ben Catton

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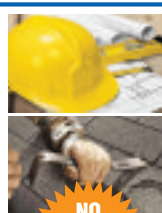
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Family Notices

SANDERSON
Peter

Peacefully, on Thursday December 1, at Maesteg Community Hospital; Peter, of Hillhead, Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of the late Betty, loving father of Rob and daughter-in-law Tracy and a much loved grandfather Isobel and Stephanie.

Funeral Thursday, December 15. Service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm, where friends please meet.

Family flowers only, by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Cancer Research (Wales) c/o Penybont Funeral Services, Meadow Street, Bridgend, CF31 1HE. Tel: 01656 650831.

ROBERTS
Ann

Peacefully at home with her family, Ann, much loved wife of the late Cliff, loving mother, adored nain.

She will be sadly missed by all.

Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Friday, December 9 at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu may be given to Marie Curie Hospice, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

OLNEY
Andrew David
(of Carlisle and Barry)

Suddenly at Freeman Hospital Newcastle upon Tyne on 30th November.

Andrew, son of Tess and the late David Olney, brother to Peter, Gareth and Anne. Devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Will be very sadly missed - Rest in Peace.

CLINT
Valerie Georgina

Peacefully on December 4 at Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre, Penarth, Val of Llantwit Major. Beloved wife of the late Joseph, dearly loved mother of Ian, Derek and Dale, much loved mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Wednesday, December 14. Service and cremation 12 noon at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

YARWOOD

Doreen Evelyn (Formerly Saunders)

Peacefully on November 29 at Llandough Hospital after a short illness Doreen, aged 96 years, of Peterston-s-Ely. Dearly loved mother of Anne and Peter, much loved by all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Friday, December 9, service 1.45pm at Peterston-s-Ely Parish Church, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to RNIB c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

MACE
Malcolm James

O.B.E., O.S.I.J., QFSM, FIFireE, FBIM. Mick, Chief Fire Officer of Cardiff City, Powys and South Glamorgan, sadly passed away on November 26 at the age of 90 years, after a short illness in Llandough Hospital. Beloved husband of the late Sheila, father to Robert and Nigel, father-in-law to Kath and Denise.

Mick will be sadly missed by all who knew him especially his grandchildren Nicole, Phillip, Neil and Sophie, great grandchildren Mathew, Adam, Lexie and Louie.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Monday, December 12, service at 11.45am at St. Cadoc's Church, Llancafarn, followed by a family cremation service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to The Fire Fighters Charity, c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

ENOS
Elaine Mary

Peacefully, on 2nd December 2016 at home, in the presence of her loving family, aged 87, Elaine; beloved wife of the late Merlin, much loved mum of Carole, Brian and Val, dear mother-in-law to Peter, Gaynor and Bob. Elaine was an adored gran and great-gran.

She will be sadly missed by all her family and her many friends.

Resting at James Summers & Son Lavernock Court, Lavernock Road, Penarth, CF64 5UP until the funeral service on Wednesday, 14th December 2016 at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 10am.

Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if desired to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR

THOMAS
Jeanne

Peacefully on November 29 Jeanne, beloved wife of the late Tudor, mother of Catherine and David, father-in-law of Ian and Rebecca, grandfather of Thomas and Emily.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Friday, December 16, service and cremation 11.30am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request.

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Public Notice

LICENSING ACT 2003
Section 34
Notice of Application for a Premises Licence
NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT
An application has been made to Bridgend County Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a **VARIATION TO THE PREMISES LICENCE** in respect of the premises shown below. Details of the application may be inspected between the hours of: Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk. Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below:-
Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB
NAME OF APPLICANT: JONATHAN DAVIES
NAME AND POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE PREMISES: BETTYS COMMUNITY CLUB, BRIDGEND, CF32 8TA
DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED VARIATION: (1) "All entertainment including sporting, live music and plays etc from 7:00 - 00:00 Monday to Sunday"
"Alcohol sales between 9:00 - 00:00 Monday to Sunday"
"Opening hours 7:00 - 00:30 - Monday to Sunday"
"Additional 1 hour on opening hours and licensable activities on boxing day, New Year's Eve/Day and Sunday's leading into Bank Holiday Monday".
"Condition removed which restricts children from entering the bar."
"Condition removed to provide free transport"
DATE BY WHICH REPRESENTATIONS MUST BE MADE: 8th December 2016
This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely 10/11/2016, for 28 consecutive days. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.
(1) This must include details of changes to the activities, type of entertainment and appropriate days and times.

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Birthdays

HAPPY 40th BIRTHDAY

Manuela Bates
on 9th December

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xxx

Happy Birthday Isla!

Seasons Greetings

Wishing all our friends and family a Very Happy Christmas & a Peaceful 2017

With much love from David and Jane Maggs

This year we are supporting
Crisis At Christmas

Mary Young Smith

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NEWS AND SPORT ROUND-UP FROM PENARTH'S STANWELL SCHOOL



Macy Brown and Kitty Picton have been selected for south Wales at football.



The royal visit for the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.



Children In Need Day at Stanwell.



Megan Hitchen won the south Wales final in a young chef competition.



Niamh Miller has gained ice skating representative honours.



Pupils having a good time at the Urdd centre at Glan-llyn.

Cadbury World visit

ON Thursday, November 3, 100 very excited year-8 geographers visited Cadbury World to learn more about 'the geography of chocolate.'

Pupils were treated to a talk on the location of industry and Cadbury's effects on the global environment, as well as touring the factory, tasting lots of chocolate and enjoying the 4D film experience. Miraculously, nobody was sick on the return journey!

Year-7 football

Congratulations to year-7 pupils Macy Brown and Kitty Picton who both had a trial to represent south Wales at various games throughout the season.

We are delighted to announce that both girls were successful and will be representing south Wales this season, as well as playing for their local team, Sully Pinks.

Glan-llyn trip

YEAR-9 pupils took part in a fantastic outdoor activity weekend in the Urdd centre in Glan-llyn, north Wales. The cold weather did little to dampen the mood as they took part in the varied activities on or around the Lake Tegid.

It was an exciting experience, and a chance for the pupils to create fond memories, enjoy the spectacular scenery and develop their Welsh.

Cultural experience

AS part of their studies for the Welsh Baccalaureate, sixth form art and design students received a guided tour of the Artes Mundi exhibition, an internationally focused arts organisation which identifies, recognises and supports contemporary visual artists who 'engage with the human condition, social reality and

lived experience'.

Best known for its biennial international exhibition and prize, it was a visual interpretation of their studies where students were encouraged to respond to the exhibits using sophisticated critical language.

Children In Need

STANWELL was a busy and fun-filled place as students raised money for the BBC Children In Need appeal.

Year-7 manned stalls of exciting activities and delicious baked goods and pupils from all year groups took part in a Stanwell's Got Talent concert in the afternoon. So far over £2,200 has been raised... Well done to all who contributed.

Sporting excellence

CONGRATULATIONS and good luck to Niamh Millar of year-9 who has been selected to compete in the basic novice B category for under-15s at the British National Ice-skating Championship, Sheffield.

Music success

WE are pleased to announce that talented harpist Huw Boucher of year-9 has won the Music in the Vale Young Instrumentalist of the Year for the second year running.

Huw is an incredibly versatile and promising musician, having also won prizes at the National Eisteddfod. We continue to follow his career with great interest.

Gymnastics competition

Year 7 and 8 gymnasts represented Stanwell at the Cardiff Games Gymnastics Competition on Monday, November 14. The squad performed some excellent routines on the day with Elin Thompson, Ethan Spear and Tom Whittaker receiving a score of

9.00 on one piece of apparatus. A great experience for all involved.

Trampolining championships

STANWELL'S trampolining squad competed in the Welsh Schools' Trampolining Championships in Cardiff where Darcy Richardson performed two fabulous routines securing her third place in the under-19 girls' intermediate category and Sophie Lias, one of our regular gymnasts competed for the first time in trampolining with two excellent routines that secured her first place in the under-14 girls' beginners category.

Congratulations to both girls. A special mention also to Ellen Carolan, Leoni Palmer, Niamh Taylor Hoare and Stella Wright who all gave very promising performances on the day.

Megan Hitchen a star in the kitchen

HUGE congratulations and well done to Megan Hitchen, who won the South Wales Springboard, Young Chef competition!

Megan competed against other pupils from schools across south Wales and came first. Good luck to Megan who will be representing Stanwell in the Welsh final in February next year.

Westminster Abbey

STANWELL students and staff were honoured to receive personal invitations to a ceremony at Westminster Abbey to mark the 60th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Fourteen Duke of Edinburgh young leaders who have shown exceptional commitment to the scheme travelled to the ceremony and attended alongside Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and TRH The Duke of Edinburgh and the Earl and Countess of Wessex, celebrities and Philip Schofield. It was an unforgettable experience for the Stanwell party and they were all very proud to be representing the school at this prestigious event.

It includes the famous 'Flower duet' and 'Bell song' and will be sung in English.

Festival of Fools panto

THE Bridgend Castle Players' annual family pantomime is set in April 1, 1515 at Notre Dame Cathedral, on the occasion of the Festival of Fools.

The action takes place at Bettws Community Club on Friday, December 16 at 7.30pm (£2 per ticket). It can also be seen at Coytrahen Community Centre on Saturday, December 17; Sarn Social Club December 18; Cefn Cribwr Community Centre (the Green Hall) January 7, and Aberkenfig Welfare Hall, January 8.

All shows start at 4.30pm. Tickets available direct from www.bridgendcastleplayers.org, on the door (subject to availability) or via treasurer on 07814 881445.

More What's On events

WI fair

PENLLYN and District WI are holding their annual Christmas fair on December 10 in The Lesser Hall, Cowbridge.

Gifts, cakes, jewellery, raffles, Christmas decorations and beautiful crafts are just some of the items on offer. Doors open at 10am and refreshments available throughout the day. Come and join us for this delightful start to the festive season.

Meeting in St Bride's

THE St Bride's Community Council meets on December 12 at All Saints' Church, Southerndown commencing at 7pm.

Cowbridge U3A

THE next Cowbridge U3A meeting will be entertainment by John Sheen, at 2pm on Wednesday, December 14 in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Visitors welcome (there is a small fee, which includes refreshments). See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

Carol concert at Soar Chapel

Mid-Glamorgan Mixed Choir is presenting a carol concert at Soar Chapel, Rhiwceiliog on Thursday, December 15 at 7pm.

All are very welcome.

Lakmé

SWANSEA City Opera will be at the Town Hall, Maesteg on January 1 to stage Lakmé, following their acclaimed tour of La Bohème.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig: Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	2016/01376/FUL Dairy building Penuchadre Farm, Wick Road, St. Brides Major St. Brides Major
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig: Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	2016/01407/FUL Domestic double garage Greystones, Factory Road, Cowbridge Llanblethian
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2016/01425/FUL Change of use of coach house and cheese house into 4 no. additional holiday accommodation units, demolition of single storey lean-to attached to coach house and replacement with single storey conservatory, and internal and external alterations and associated works
Location/Lleoliad:	Coach House and Cheese House at Gileston Manor, Gileston Road, Gileston
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Gileston
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2016/01434/LBC Change of use of coach house and cheese house into 4 no. additional holiday accommodation units, demolition of single storey lean-to attached to coach house and replacement with single storey conservatory, and internal and external alterations and associated works
Location/Lleoliad:	Coach House and Cheese House at Gileston Manor, Gileston Road, Gileston
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Gileston

Listed Building Consent/Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2016/01361/LBC Conversion of rear hotel annexe to Hotel Mangers flat. Regularisation application in relation to pre-commencement conditions for submission of window details and notice of commencement
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Glendale Hotel, 8-10, Plymouth Road, Penarth Grade II
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2016/01365/LBC Replacement of windows and doors, repair to stonework and render, repairs to roof, new zinc cladding to lean-to roof, and replacement of existing rain water goods
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	77, Eastgate, Cowbridge Grade II
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig: Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	2016/01404/LBC Extension to existing dwelling Plaisted House, Llanmaes Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2016/01232/FUL The conversion of a redundant and derelict barn into a single detached residential dwelling, and the erection of the original cow shed structure to the South West perimeter of the site
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	West Aberthaw Farm, West Aberthaw Affecting the Heavy Horse Barn, Cart Shed, Bull House and West Aberthaw Farmhouse, all Grade II Listed Buildings
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig: Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	2016/01376/FUL Dairy building Penuchadre Farm, Wick Road, St. Brides Major Affecting Penuchadre Farmhouse, Grade II and Barn and Cow Houses at Penuchadre Farm, Grade II
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2016/01390/FUL Demolition of existing out houses and construction of a single storey 2 bedroom extension
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Cottrell Lodge, St Nicholas Affecting Cottrell Lodge, St. Nicholas, Grade II
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2016/01434/LBC Change of use of coach house and cheese house into 4 no. additional holiday accommodation units, demolition of single storey lean-to attached to coach house and replacement with single storey conservatory, and internal and external alterations and associated works

Location/Lleoliad:	Coach House and Cheese House at Gileston Manor, Gileston Road, Gileston
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Affecting the Pigsty, Stable Block, Cheesehouse, the Cross in churchyard of the Church of St. Giles which are all Grade II Listed Buildings. Also affecting Gileston Manor and the Church of St. Giles which are Grade II* Listed Buildings

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2016/00551/FUL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED - Variations of conditions 1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24, 26, 27 and 28 of planning permission 2013/00903/FUL to increase the height of the final restoration levels to increase the volume of ash that can be deposited in the former quarry and to vary the associated details to which the conditions refer
Location/Lleoliad:	Aberthaw North Quarry, Castle Road, Aberthaw
Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2016/01232/FUL The conversion of a redundant and derelict barn into a single detached residential dwelling, and the erection of the original cow shed structure to the South West perimeter of the site
Location/Lleoliad:	West Aberthaw Farm, West Aberthaw

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No/ Rhif y cais: Proposal/Cynnig:	2016/01232/FUL The conversion of a redundant and derelict barn into a single detached residential dwelling, and the erection of the original cow shed structure to the South West perimeter of the site
Location/Lleoliad:	West Aberthaw Farm, West Aberthaw

Application(s) with Environmental Statement/ Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Aberthaw North Quarry, Castle Road, Aberthaw.

I give notice that Mr. Hugh Morris is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Variations of conditions 1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24, 26, 27 and 28 of planning permission 2013/00903/FUL to increase the height of the final restoration levels to increase the volume of ash that can be deposited in the former quarry and to vary the associated details to which the conditions refer.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement (and addendum October 2016 – additional information received) which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement at a charge of £150.00 (paper copy), £10.00 (CD/DVD copy), or the Non-Technical Summary free of charge from Support Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry CF63 4RT, so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
 - The plans.
 - The environmental statement.
 - Other documents submitted with the application.
- at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 29 December, 2016.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 29 December 2016 quoting reference 2016/00551/FUL.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8 **Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Aberthaw North Quarry, Castle Road, Aberthaw**

Hysbysir trwy hyn Mr. Hugh Morris n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar yllie Variations of conditions 1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24, 26, 27 and 28 of planning permission 2013/00903/FUL to increase the height of the final restoration levels to increase the volume of ash that can be deposited in the former quarry and to vary the associated details to which the conditions refer

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol (ac atodiad Hydre 2016 – wedi derbyn gwybodaeth ychwanegol) sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Gall aelodau o'r cyhoedd gael copïau o'r datganiad amgylcheddol am gost o £150.00 (copi papur), £10.00 (CD/DVD), neu'r Crynodeb Annhechnegol am ddim gan Wasanaethau Cymorth, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Doc Swyddfa, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri CF63 4RT, cyfnyd ag y stoc yn parhau.

Cai'f aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfenau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 29 December, 2016.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiat y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 29 December 2016 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeiriad 2016/00551/FUL.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 8 December, 2016

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager, Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

No-shows frustrate manager

St Peters Seconds 41 Barry Seconds 3

BARRY Second XV continued their poor form as they exited the East District Cup.

Preparations for the match once again proved to be a nightmare for coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow, as the long list of players unavailable was combined with no less than five players withdrawing from the match day squad within moments of kick-off.

With players out of position and little warm-up, it was no surprise that Barry were under pressure right from the off. The situation would not improve for the next 80 minutes.

St Peters went ahead with Barry hardly touching the ball, and despite a brief rally, led by Hywel Jones, captain Dominic Busuttill and flanker Jake Goodfellow, when the visitors got on the scoreboard with a Dylan Robertson penalty, that was as good as it got for the green-and-whites.

Things went from bad to worse when talisman Jones hobbled off with a serious injury before full-back Rhys Knapman followed suit.

With even more players out of position the

visiting defence became disorganised as the home side piled on the points.

Barry never gave up and strung together a few attacks in the second half, which, if not for a lack of cutting edge, would have yielded a few scores but it was not to be.

The players who bravely took to the field for the game must be commended for their dedication, but they were badly let down by those who once again lack responsibility in their own availability.

The game ended with manager Chow in the front row, which simply demonstrates the necessity of players to stop withdrawing from the match-day squads.

The situation leaves the coach frustrated and the manager considering his position.

There are no more games for the Second XV in 2016. Here is to hoping for better things in 2017.

Team: Knapman; Forrester, Busuttill (c), Evans, Gill; Robertson, Pugh; Fortt, Hall, Brooke; Deyes, M Jones; Goodfellow, Cleal, H Jones. Replacements: L Jones, Leech, Chow. Man of the match: Busuttill.

Ladies Skittle League results

THE latest results for the Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for week commencing November 21 are as follows:

First division: SV Gals (V Pycroft 29) 284, Colcot Ladies (C Fenton, M Snelling 29) 292; Pila Palas (H Pallfrey, R Webb, A Williams 3) 321, Allsorts (R Dawe 31) 308; Family and Friends (H James 25) 226, Cigar Ladies (E Simmons 26) 224; Bakers Dozen (R Hewitson 28) 264, Bobby's Girls (A Seldon 27) 240; Red Admiral (S Clements 22) 234, Family Affair (S Evans 28) 243; Special Angels (L Mountford 24) 236, Space Finders (D Carter 31) 270; Barry Stars (W Jones 35) 335, Coppers (J William 31) 318.

Second division: Castle Bandits (C Kerslake 27) 246, Airways Angels (E Jones 30) 259; Roller Coaster (J Fairweather, S Spry, G Giles 23) 236, Merry Makers (R Collins 25) 187; Cad Con Fillies (S Chilcott 28) 212, SV Lights (L Norris 25) 189; After Eights (D Davies 28) 256, Castaways (J Byrne 30) 287; Breakaways (C Parfitt 30) 303 Fallen

Angels (T Lawrence 35) 296; Witchill Widows (S Strading 32) 304, Rhoeoe Starlights (N Barnfield 29) 314.

Third division: Little Devils (J H Jones 26) 188, SV Ladies (F Butler 27) 238; Vixens (H Jones 32) 279, Twilight (A Campbell 30) 275; Rebels (S Iorram 24) 224, Ectetera (C Stillman, N Grasby 23) 193; Rugby Triers (C Jenkins 26) 258, Dolly Mixtures (E Peckham, G Burdge 30) 256; Hill Billies (G Moorcraft 34) 329, Witches (P Cookson 32) 320; Challengers (D Collard 31) 312, Uptown Girl (A Hobbs 34) 292.

Fourth division: Nite Outers (F Granville, J Davies, B Lowrie 22) 194; Socialites (J Savoury 25) 221; Off The Rails (K Green, I Rosser 25) 232; Hell Raisers (C Davies 30) 235; Persuaders (E Gardener 27) 225, Witchill Wanderers (C Morrissey 23) 153; Living On A Spare (S Mitchell 30) 284, Liberals (G Shier 33) 304; Aristocats (P Dancy 29) 236, Boozy Birds (A Lloyd 26) 155.

Please note that the Christmas raffle will take place on December 12; bring your raffle tickets and prizes.

Glamorgan Cricket Club mourns death of former captain Barry Lloyd

GLAMORGAN County Cricket Club was shocked and saddened to learn of the death of former player and captain Barry Lloyd after a short illness at the age of 63.

Born in September 1953, Barry had joined the Glamorgan staff in the early 1970s and the young off-spinner who was born and raised in Neath was regarded as a potential successor to Don Shepherd as the club's leading spin bowler.

As a result, the Welsh county arranged for the former pupil of Llangatwg Comprehensive School to have a spell on the MCC groundstaff during 1971 and 1972.

While at Lords, Barry came under the wing of MCC head coach Len Muncer, another outstanding off-spinner with Glamorgan, and a measure of his progress came with his debut for the Welsh county's 2nd XI in 1971, followed the next summer by his

county championship debut for Glamorgan in their end-of-season game against Gloucestershire at Bristol.

After leaving the Lords' groundstaff, Barry also trained as a schoolteacher at Bangor College, but he continued to play for the Welsh county during his vacations, and in 1973 made his debut for Glamorgan in one-day cricket in their Sunday League game against Sussex at Hove.

Having completed his studies in 1977, Barry played on a regular basis for the Welsh county in both formats of the game for the next six summers. In 1981 he claimed 53 first-class wickets at just 32 runs apiece including a career-best return of 8/70 against Lancashire at Sophia Gardens.

Barry followed this in 1982 by taking 55 first-class wickets, besides claiming career-best one-day figures of 4/26 against the Combined Universities, also at Sophia Gardens.

Barry's greatest asset was his nagging accuracy and his frugal spells in one-day cricket, allied to his wicket-taking in championship matches, led to Barry winning his county cap in 1982.

It was something of a landmark summer for Barry as in 1982 he also shared captaincy duties with Javed Miandad.

Barry continued to play for Glamorgan until the end of the 1984 season and retired from the game with a career tally of 311 wickets for the 1st XI, including 247 in first-class cricket.

Barry appeared regularly for the Pontarddulais 1st XI until 2010. By this time, and to his great pride, his daughter Hannah had graduated from playing as a young girl with Pontarddulais to being selected for the England women's team.

On hearing of Barry's death, Glamorgan chief executive Hugh Morris said: "Barry was one of the first captains I played under in championship cricket for Glamorgan. He was hugely supportive of the young Welsh players in the squad and always wore the daffodil with pride.

"His passing is very sad news for us here at Glamorgan Cricket as well as for the wider cricket community in Wales, especially Pontarddulais, and we send our thoughts and prayers to his family and wide circle of friends at this most difficult time."

Brian Lee

Paul nets a winner at Aintree

PAUL MOLONY, stable jockey to Llancarfan's Evan Williams, landed the opening £12,529 BetFred TV Fillies' 3 Years-Old Juvenile Hurdle at Aintree on Saturday on *Evening Hush*, a winner of her only other start 13 days previously.

Welsh jockey Sean Bowen won the £43,330 BetFred Grand Sefton Handicap Chase held over the Grand National course on champion trainer Paul Nicholls's *As De Me* the 4-1 favourite and at Chepstow *ToBeFair*, trained by Debra Hamer who hails from the Vale, made it five wins in a row when winning the Llewellyn Humphreys Handicap Hurdle at odds of 9-2.

Brian Lee's most memorable Welsh Grand National winners – 2004 and *Silver Birch's* grand stand finish

THIS year's £150,000 Welsh Grand National at Chepstow will be held on December 27 and GEM columnist Brian Lee takes a look back at some of its most memorable races.

As far for the course, the 2004 Coral Welsh Grand National was run on heavy ground.

Paul Nicholls' *Silver Birch*, a seven-year-old bay gelding by *Clearly Bust-All Gone*, went off the 10/3 favourite in a field of 17 runners which included former winners *Supreme Glory* (2001) and *Bindaree* (2003).

Lucinda Russell's eight-year-old *Strong Resolve* set a strong pace despite having been ridden some two miles to Piercefield Park after his horsebox had been delayed by heavy traffic near the Severn Bridge.

Four fences from the finish *Silver Birch* was one of half-a-dozen or so horses still in with a chance, and it was at this fence that the top weighted *Take A Stand* came down, when seemingly going as well as

any of the others that were in contention.

Silver Birch then jumped to the front three fences from home and, although tending to idle, went on to score by two lengths from the pace-making *Strong Resolve*, with *Chives* one-and-three-quarters of a length back in third spot.

Little more than five lengths covered the first five home but *Silver Birch's* greatest moment was still to come as he went on to win the 2007 John Smith Grand National at Aintree. In doing so, he denied the Welsh trainer Peter Bowen's *McKelvey* – beaten just three quarters of a length – and who was badly hampered during the race – from becoming the first Welsh trained winner since *Kirkland* which had won in 1905.

And Paul Nicholls, it should be noted, had ridden *Playschool* to victory at Chepstow in the 1987 renewal.

Brian Lee is the author of *The Welsh Grand National – From Deerstalker to Emperor's Choice – which is published by The History Press.*

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ON AND OFF THE TURF with BRIAN LEE

POINT-TO-POINT enthusiasts will welcome the arrival of John Beasley's *Big Green Annual 2016*, a pictorial record of the 2015-16 hunt-racing season.

A number of owners, riders and trainers from the Vale appear in its 192 pages and these include owner/trainer Andrew Quick, the man who seems to have a particular liking to grey horses, such as his *Sangfroid*, which finished third at Ystradowen.

People like Andrew, who trains his horses on a local farmer's field, are

the backbone of the sport and it is always nice to see them train a winner, which he seems determined to do this season.

There are several pictures of the Llangeinor and Penttyrch meeting at Pyle where Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft was in good form and the stunning photographs taken at meetings up and down the country never fail to amaze me.

The book costs £26.95 plus £4.95 p&p and can be obtained by phoning 01202 309489 or by writing to Paleface Publications, 30 Thistlebarrow Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 7AL.

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Spring is in the air for Erin Scurrah

ERIN Scurrah, a year-9 pupil at Pencoed Comprehensive School, has taken part in the Welsh National Schools Com-petition for the under-14 age group, where she came a superb fourth in her trampolining section, which placed her 11th out of 80 in Wales.

The competition required competitors to do two routines, and the second routine can have a more complex ending than the first.

Erin has always been excellent at preparation and her goal was to do two clean routines.

Erin came 11th in the competition which is a testimony to her hard work and perseverance.

AP



Cowbridge body builder placed in UK's top three

On October 16, Simon Gooding, a retained Cowbridge fireman, took third place in the United Kingdom Drug Free Bodybuilding Association national final held in Coventry.

The UK finals competition takes the best physiques from six qualifiers across the country to compete against each other at the final.

Simon, a keen member of Cowbridge Gym, said: "In preparation for this competition, I reduced my body fat to around five per cent while maintaining my muscle mass."

"I planned my own training, nutrition and posing – hard work especially as you are competing against the best in the UK."

The judges' said: "Third place Simon Gooding, the Southern Counties winner, had clearly taken his feedback on board and grabbed the bronze medal slot with a fuller, harder physique than at the qualifier."

Simon has been training from the age of 16 for competitions such as this and has studied the importance of both nutrition and training.

Simon explained: "I developed a passion for training from a young age and now am developing this into an exciting career. As a qualified personal trainer I am developing my business model to be a 'portable personal trainer', in other words, bringing the training to those that are not wanting to go to a gym or maybe not able to get there."



Simon Gooding

Sully makes slow start to the bowls season

SULLY welcomed Newport to Sully Stadium expecting a close game as in previous years.

Sully got off too a poor start, with Newport taking full advantage going into a 13-shot lead at the end of the fifth, with all Sully rinks behind.

Eventually Sully players began to compete, with the rink of Brian Gist, John Jones, Graham Cogbill and skip Matt Gershenson taking a four-shot lead helping to close the gap to one by the end of the tenth with the score 55-56.

Over the next five ends, Sully began to take charge on four of the six rinks and although the rinks of

Brian Griffiths and Ken McLeod were both behind by six shots, Sully retained their lead at the 15 end, 84-82.

The game was now entering the final quarter and Sully were now in a winning position and with the rinks of Dick Cowling, Chris Ackland and Matt Gershenson winning their games.

Sully were looking good but the remaining rinks went into meltdown.

Fred Phillips' rink including Andrew Morgan, Steve Close and Peter Hocking had led a very good Newport rink up to end 18, then dropped a seven and a four on the final end when attempting to recover their deficit, losing 18-27.

The rink of Gary Eastment, Clive Collins, Dave Curtis and Brian Griffiths scored four shots on the first end but that was the only time they were ahead, as their opposition won 13 ends to Sully's eight winning 18-28.

Ken McLeod supported by John Best, Roy Richards and Rod Hudson, struggled all through the game never getting to grips with their opponents, eventually losing by eight shots (12-20).

Having been in a positive position at the 16th end, Sully were disappointed to lose this game by 13 shots (112-125) and taking only six points against Newport's 16.

ON November 4 Dinas Powis Golf Club held a successful presentation night.

The Ladies Club Champion was Carolyn Jones, and Sue Bridle was the runner up. Golfer of the Year was Vicki Ellison and the winner of the Bronze Championship was Ruth Yates and Audrey Harwood was the runner up.

The results for competitions played in November are as follows: November 1, Turkey Trot 2, a nine-hole Stableford Comp: First, Maxine Hird 21pts; second, Sue Thomas 17pts; third, Rhian Thomas 17pts.

On November 8, Turkey Trot 3, a nine-hole medal: First, Audrey Harwood 47-13 = 34 net; second, Ruth Yates 48-13 = 35; third, Sue Bridle 46-9 = 37 on back

6 from Sam Saunders 53-16 = 37.

On November 15, Turkey Trot 4, a nine-hole Stableford: first, Sally Livsey Davies 18pts; second, Ruth Yates 17pts on back 6 from third Dorothy Amery 17pts.

Congratulations to all our winners. RUTH YATES

Awards for Dinas Ladies golfers

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St Athan march on in Intermediate Cup

SAINTS marched on to round 4 of the South Wales FA Intermediate Cup with an emphatic 4-1 away victory against Treorchy.

Skipper Jordan Mortimore bagged a brace while Josh Harfoot added a well-worked goal after Josh Morgan had opened the scoring from the penalty spot.

James Austin, Karl Steel, Richie Humphreys and Nicky Cox were all missing, while Mark Drysdale and Jonathan Ashton will likely miss the rest of the campaign, Drysdale posted to parts unknown while Ashton was confined to Aberystrwyth.

In came Tony Charles, another attempt to retire failed; Josh Harfoot and Jon Ball returned to the squad, Jamie Robinson and Tony Pugh were recalled from the reserves, while veteran Steve Stock was brought in between the sticks.

It was the home side who made the better start but couldn't convert their territory into a clear cut chance, with Saints defenders blocking any site of goal with some good challenges.

St Athan got going and produced some fine football in the middle of the park, that saw Reece Lewis play in Mortimore but his first time side foot effort was well palmed away by the Treorchy number one.

The home side then saw their best effort, as a flick on put the forward in but Stock pulled off a fine save to deny the hosts. Then Saints breathed a huge sigh of relief as moments later the home front man was put in on one but rolled his shot just wide of the post after Stock gave him the eyes.

Then the breakthrough, right on half time, a half cleared corner landed to Reece Lewis and he was taken down in the area and spot kick awarded. Josh Morgan stepped up to neatly roll the ball in from 12 yards and Saints had the lead.

Manager Bill Laing was not happy after the first half performance and made his feeling clear at half time, Saints needed to up their game.

And up it they did. Five minutes into the second period, Stock collected the ball in his area and bowled it out to Brad Young at left back. His ball found Lewis, inside to Morgan, Morgan in turn played in Mortimore, who coolly finished to double the away side's lead.

Treorchy rallied and saw two lobbed efforts narrowly over before Saints put the tie to bed.

Mortimore picked up the ball from deep and skinned two defenders before crossing from the left with the outside of his right boot (to the delight of the capacity crowd) to Morgan whose knockdown was pinpoint perfect into Harfoot's path who finished with aplomb into the roof of the net.

Treorchy threw caution to the wind and knew pulling one back could spark a comeback. Their

forwards forcing Stock into another save before fizzing a shot inches wide.

Then controversy, a cross whipped in was met on the half volley, net rippled, the ball was not in it. The home side claimed a goal, the referee ruled that the ball had hit the side netting. Needless to say the home side were unimpressed, the ghost goal was not given, and more net pegs would have been added on to the agenda at the AGM.

Saints made sure that even if that goal had stood, it wouldn't have mattered. The away side broke down the other end, Leigh Lewis' back heel played in Mortimore who finished with ease under the keeper for his second of the game.

St Athan are in the hat for the next round despite not quite being at their best. Midfield duo Reece Lewis and Joe Laing worked themselves into the ground in the middle of the park, while Deon Garrison and Tony Charles were colossus at centre halves.

The result sees St Athan into the last 16 of the competition and the only Vale League representative left now after Vale United, Cowbridge and Rhoeos were all eliminated.

St Athan: Stock, Ball, Young, Garrison, Charles, Laing, R Lewis, Harfoot, L Lewis, Mortimore, Morgan. Subs: Robinson, Pugh.

We'd like to thank our sponsors, Owens Motor Services, Llandow, Diving & Marine Engineering, Green Future Landscaping, Llantwit Valet & Car Wash and The Four Bells in St Athan. HD

DAI'S EYES ON THE PRIZE

PENLLYNE farmer David Llewellyn, better known throughout the Vale as 'Dai,' proved a very popular winner of the recently-held monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society at Radyr Golf Club.

Having struggled with his game for quite some time, a decision taken earlier this year to seek professional assistance certainly paid dividends when Dai returned a winning score of 31 stableford points to collect the Herbert R Thomas & Co Cup from the day's generous sponsor, Mr Andrew Thomas.

In second place with 30 points was Reg Davies, followed by Bryan Owen with 29 points. Julian Golunski finished in fourth with 29 points.

Sponsors representative Robert Calcaterra easily won the visitors' section with the top score of the day of 32 points, followed by Bryan Jones (Brecon) who



First time winner Dai Llewellyn receiving his prize from sponsor Andrew Thomas.

finished with 25 points. Robert also had the satisfaction of being nearest the pin on one of the Watts & Morgan (Cowbridge) sponsored par-3 holes, together with Robbie Llewellyn, Trevor Wooding, Peter Francis (Pencoed) and Reg Davies.

Yet another Penlllyn resident, Ian Taylor, returned home with a prize when hitting the longest drive on the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge-sponsored hole, leaving only Bob Evans from the same village to return home

without a prize.

Sponsor Andrew Thomas hit a winning note when correctly guessing 43 balls would fail to return home to collect the Premier Turf-sponsored bottle of whisky that raised £80 for the Alzheimer's Society.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 15 at the RAF St Athan Golf Club, which once again will feature a special competition for the over-80s, of which there are quite a few. T McC

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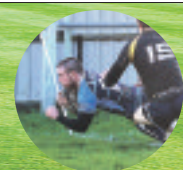
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Youth players excel in Ath's narrow win

IMAGES by GLENNSPORTS

IN National League Div 1 West Central – The Athletic were forced to make seven changes from the side that played Maesteg the previous week as they welcomed the other Llynfi Valley side Maesteg Harlequins to Newbridge Fields and emerged 18-17 victors.

The side relied heavily on their youth team with half backs Dan James and Luke Bevan and centre Stuart Ellis in the backs and lock Tom Seldon and flanker Ben Davies at forward.

A sixth youth player flanker Luke Williams came on at half time. With such a young side playing an experienced Harlequins, the Athletic's game plan was to run the ball from all parts of the field to counter the powerful Maesteg eight.

The Quins playing with a breeze at their backs opened strongly and in the opening minutes forced a line out 5 metres from the Athletic line.

A well-controlled driving maul saw hooker Jay Ronan cross in the corner. A touchline conversion from outside half Lloyd Bradley gave the visitors a 7-0 lead.

The Athletic were finding it difficult to get out of their half. Eventually after 10 minutes they moved the ball across the line 15 metres from the Quins' try line. Unfortunately a wayward pass saw Quins

wing Jack Picton fly hack the ball along the touchline. He continued dribbling along the touchline and outpaced the Athletic covering defence to cross wide out to stretch the lead to 12-0.

The Athletic came back into the game and centre Stuart Ellis reduced the deficit to 12-3 with a well struck penalty.

Late in the half the Quins opened up play from a scrum 30 metres out and saw full back Rhodri Thomas enter the line to cross in the corner.

With the final move of the half the Quins picked up a yellow card for tackling a player without the ball. Ellis reduced the Athletic's half time deficit to 17-6 kicking the resultant penalty.

The Athletic started the second half on the front foot. Some good forward play from locks MOM Chris John in only his second Athletic appearance and Tom Seldon and No 8 Griff Davies set up field position for the young speedy backs to come into play.

Flankers Ben Howe and Luke Williams were in the faces of the opposition forcing them to concede a penalty. Scrum half and vice captain Aled Thomas had come on for his first league game of the season after suffering a broken jaw in a pre season friendly. He took a quick tap penalty which saw the ball moved swiftly from outside half Bevan to centre Michael Hathaway who timed his pass for full back Dan Howells to enter the line



Centre Sean Ellis goes over.



Man of the match lock Chris John fends off a defender.

and cross in the corner to make the score 17-11 to the Quins.

Despite playing against a heavier eight the front row of props Wayne Fooks and Lewis Davies and hooker Nathan Holman survived several Harlequins' attempted push over tries from a succession of 5 metre scrums. In fact on occasions they even drove back their experienced opponents.

The Quins did attempt to break out of defence in a handling move 35 metres from their line; young centre Stuart Ellis intercepted and ran in for an opportunist try. His conversion saw the Athletic lead for the first time in the game at 18-17.

The Athletic continued to try and move the ball from all parts of the field in the final minutes when tactically they should have played territory forcing the Quins to attack from deep.

They nearly paid the price in the dying seconds when they conceded a penalty on the touchline 22 metres out. The Athletic held their breath as the position was

virtually the same as the conversion in the first minute.

However against the breeze the kick was short of the posts allowing the Athletic to kick the ball dead and record a much needed victory by one point – having lost their previous two games by a single point.

Team manager Paul Hearn commented: "It was a good win for us considering one third of

the starting line up were 18 year old youth players. Our game plan to throw the ball around paid off in the end as we gained control as the Harlequins tired and we came back from a 17-6 half time deficit."

Bridgend Athletic 18 Maesteg Harlequins 17

The Athletic's final game of 2016 is away to Kenfig Hill on the 17th December.

Adrian Burt

Cefn on the march with eight wins in eight matches

CEFN travelled to in form Penrhiwfer looking to continue their good run and their eighth successive win.

Cefn started slow and the game took 10 minutes before either side created a chance.

Cefn started to adjust to the physicality of Penrhiwfer and started to create chances one of which came to Adam James who pounced on a loose ball and fired home from outside the box.

Shortly after James broke the deadlock, he was put through with a sublime pass from playmaker Dan Jenkins who had the vision and James who had the skill to control and finish to double the lead on the stroke of half time.

Penrhiwfer as much as expected came out of the half flying, and quickly scored two goals setting up an exciting encounter.

Cefn started to spread the ball and caused problems from wide with balls being delivered dangerously into the

box. Evergreen Jon Tossell rolled the years back with a fox in the box goal from 6 yards out giving Cribwr the lead.

Dan Jenkins beat his man out wide and delivered a teasing cross which Adam James attacked with force and headed home to seal his hat-trick and Cefn's two goal lead.

Penrhiwfer delivered long balls into the box with centre halves Jon Tiffin and James Carrington dealing with ease, aided by skipper Tom Harris looked to dampen any comeback, only for the ref to award a penalty in the dying stages which Penrhiwfer slotted home.

A good win on the road and that makes 8 from 8...

Cefn Cribwr reserves and development sides both recorded home wins, both winning 4-1 versus Penybont and Llanharby respectively well done to all involved and we thank all the supporters for making their journeys.

Geraint Brown

PARA-VAULTING SUCCESS FOR HERONSBRIDGE

A PUPIL from Heronsbridge School in Bridgend has become the national champion in a sport that combines the power and balance of gymnastics with the elegance of equestrianism.

Sixteen-year-old Josh Johns has won a Welsh title in para-vaulting, which involves performing a range of gymnastic movements while on the back of a moving horse.

Heronsbridge have assembled the only para-vaulting school team in Wales, and their students are doing so well in the sport that Josh recently became the national champ in the para walk individual class, while fellow pupil Jack Garrod came second.

Every week, Heronsbridge take a group of nine pupils to the Talygarn Equestrian Centre near Pontyclun to develop their skills.

Teacher Alana Harries said: "My daughter rides at Talygarn, and the owner and I felt that vaulting would be a great opportunity for pupils with additional needs, so I approached our headteacher who absolutely loved the idea.

"The students were all a little nervous about the first session, not quite knowing what to expect but that soon diminished



and they all now really look forward to it. Every time that they see me in the corridor they ask me, "Are we vaulting this week Miss?"

"They have really enjoyed the opportunity and have gained both physically and mentally from their participation. Gymnastics and horsemanship make for a fantastic sport, and para-vaulting provides a lot of what the students need in a fun and challenging way."

Alana added: "On behalf of everyone at the school, I'd like to thank Chris and Steve Rogers, who own Talygarn Equestrian Centre, and the coaches Sophie Jones and Kim Isidoro for everything they have done with the pupils so far."

Coun Huw David, the Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, said: "Well done to all of the pupils at



ABOVE: Para vaulting.

Heronsbridge School on their achievements in para-vaulting so far. Riding a horse is a difficult skill in itself, so to combine that with gymnastics takes real talent.

"Well done also to the staff at Heronsbridge for recognising this unique learning opportunity which is proving to be beneficial to the pupils in so many ways."

BRIDGEND SPORTS UNDER-11s STRUGGLE FOR FLUENCY

BRIDGEND Sports under-11s welcomed Cambrian to Newbridge Fields on Sunday.

Bridgend took the lead a few minutes into the game, as the Sports failed to find any rhythm and fell off tackles to allow their opponents to gain the upper hand.

Harvey Hawkins scored the try for Cambrian when he took the ball 10 metres out, spotted a gap in the Sports' defence and accelerated through it to score 10 metres in from touch.

The Sports eventually gathered themselves to apply some pressure on the Cambrian attacks to force a few errors and claim the put-in at a scrum.

They clawed their way up field and into the game just before the end of the first period.

Callum Lewis put Iestyn John into space with a pass and he sprinted down the touchline to score the try for both teams to go into the break 5-5.

In the second period, Cambrian again

dominated the early minutes and registered the first score.

Logan Chubb was the beneficiary from some good play as Cambrian moved the ball wide quickly from a ruck. He received the ball, took on several defenders to break through to score.

The Sports then tried to put a few attacks together but good defence from Cambrian kept them out until late on.

Jack Short took the ball upfield from a penalty tap in the Sports' half.

Joel Rogers was on hand to receive a pass and then sprint past the covering defenders to once again bring the scores level at 10-10.

Two further 10-minute periods were played and both sides scored a try in each, Cambrian edging the third period following an interception on the Sports' try line. It was Evan Rees who seized the ball and fell over the line.

In the final period, the Sports finally put some fluency into their game, an initial breakout of defence from a Cambrian kick

was brought to a halt before Jack Short set off on a run.

Meg Lewis maintained the attack as she ploughed into an attack, good support play from Callum Lewis and Joel Rogers provided the link to Mackenzie Dent and from a couple of metres out he carried a number of defenders over the line before grounding the ball to make the final score 15-15.

The Blue and Whites have two more games before the Christmas break: one away to Llantwit Major and one home to Ystrad Rhondda, the coaches are looking forward to having a full squad at training before the Christmas break.

Matchday squad: Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins, Cadan Hayes, Callum Lewis, Cian John, Dewi Worrall, Harri Edmunds, Harri Williams, Iestyn John, Ieuan Pilliner, Jack Short, Joel Rogers, Mackenzie Dent, Mason Balmer, Megan Lewis, Richard Kirkup, Theo Clarke, Thomas Chick, Tyler Burton, Tyron Davies, Will Ellis.